60¢

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

JULY 24th, 1980 ★ ISSUE NUMBER 30

FLUKING IN MORICHES BAY

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TIPS FOR BLUEFISHING

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& Sand E

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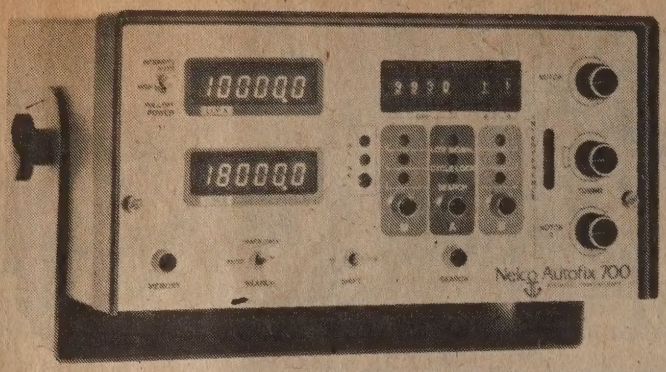

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NATIONAL FISHING WEEK SET FOR MAY 11-17, 1981

The American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association (AFTMA) has set May 11-17 as the dates for National Fishing Week 1981.

The popular theme of "Take A Kid Fishing" was well accepted in 1980 and will be repeated in 1981.

National Fishing Week saw thousands of youngers introduced to recreational fishing by clubs, camp owners, school teachers, manufacturers, retailers and manufacturer's representatives.

Some of the innovative events that took place during National Fishing Week included: A full week of fishing clinics and contests on a mile of shoreline in Yuma City, Arizona; a special outing which stressed "fishing basics" for kids from an orphanage in Flat River, Missouri; a Striped Bass Derby for underprivileged children in San Francisco and a rock fishing trip for youngers in Pacifica, California.

Other activities under the spotlight included: A Young People's Fishing Rodeo held in Eufala, Alabama for the Sheriff's Boys Ranch; a manufacturer sponsored lure drop into Lake Michigan with 25 lures tagged for prizes; a Fisherman's Spring Rally on the Connecticut River, geared specifically to children, and the theme... "Take A Kid Fishing."

Numerous other fishing clinics, outings, contests and special "youth fishing days" were organized in all parts of the country by concerned adults and youth leaders.

"From the feedback we have received on National Fising Week 1980, it was a tremendous success in the field. As we move into year three, the bandwagon effect can only cause future National Fishing Week celebrations to garner more enthusiasm for our sport and provide opportunities for children to enjoy the rewards of sport fishing." says Paul A. Mulready, AFTMA president.

In addition to field activities coinciding with National Fishing Week, many elements of the industry helped to promote the celebrated week by displaying point-of-purchase kits in retail stores and utilizing more than 250,000 "Take A Kid Fishing" stickers on mail, packages and bags.

The announcement of National Fishing Week 1981 at this early date makes it possible for everyone to get involved and plan now for next year's events.

Details of the 1981 plans will be unveiled at the industry-wide breakfast during the AFTMA Gateway to the Outdoor Market, the Association's four-day trade show, held in St. Louis. Each exhibitor at the August show will be provided with a stand-up card for in-booth use that will include the "Take A Kid Fishing" logo and a reminder to "Ask About Our National Fishing Week Specials."

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 30 JULY 24th, 1980

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About the Cover—

Lou Rosado with the 455-lb. Mako Shark he caught on a Daiwa SeaLine 900H reel and brought into Henry's Star Island Yacht Club. If Lou had caught the fish two days earlier he would have won the M.C.A. Charity Shark Tournament held last weekend.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **WEST END FLUKING**

Richard Reina, PUBLISHER
Al Ristori, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett, NEW JERSEY EDITION
Scott J. Simons, EDITOR
Fred Golofaro, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tim Coleman, NEW ENGLAND EDITION
W. A. Muller, MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller, ADVERTISING MANAGER
Rick Reina, PRODUCTION MANAGER

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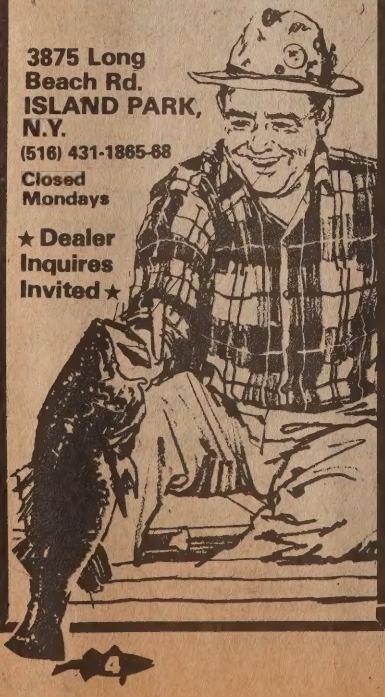

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Listed below are the seventy-three establishments that are OFFICIAL WEIGH STATIONS for The Long Island Fisherman's Skillful Angling Award program.

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★ ELIGIBLE SPECIES ★

The following fifteen species are those that are eligible for *Skillful Angling Awards, Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. World Record Contest:*

—INSHORE BOTTOM FISH—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
FLOUNDER	2
BLACKFISH	5
COD	30
PORGY	3
SEABASS	3

—INSHORE GAME FISH—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
STRIPED BASS	30
BLUEFISH	15
WEAKFISH	10
POLLACK	20
FLUKE	6

—OFFSHORE BIG GAME—

Eligible Species:	Minimum Weight:
BLUEFIN TUNA	300
BLUE SHARK	150
MAKO SHARK	200
WHITE MARLIN	65
SWORDFISH	No Minimum

SKILLFUL ANGLING AWARDS

Skillful Angling Awards* are given to anglers that catch fish larger than the minimum weights that have been established for each species. All you have to do is weigh the fish in at an *Official Weigh Station* and fill out a Weigh-In Slip. You'll receive your 8½ x 11-inch *Skillful Angling Award* certificate and patch in a few weeks. *That's it!

SPORT FISHING WORLD SERIES

Subscribers of *The Fisherman* are eligible to participate in the yearly *Sport Fishing World Series,* which is based on the *Skillful Angling Awards* that are issued between June 1st and November 1st. The *Series* is scored on an accumulated point basis, based on the following scoring system: Largest fish—25 pts.; 2nd largest—24 pts.; 3rd largest—23 pts.; 25th largest—1 pt. Only the 25 largest fish of each eligible species will score points. Those accumulating the most points during the *Series* will win the following CASH PRIZES:

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To be eligible to participate in *The Sport Fishing World Series* and the *I.G.F.A. Record Contest* you must be a paid subscriber to either *The Long Island Fisherman, The New Jersey Fisherman,* or *The New England Fisherman* at the time all fish are caught. You *do not* have to be a subscriber in order to be eligible to receive a *Skillful Angling Award.* For further info call (516) 725-4200, or write to:

***THE FISHERMAN* • BOX 1994 • SAG HARBOR, NEW YORK 11963**

OUTBOARD DOCTOR

Questions answered by

Doc Merc Omchrysler

Readers should address questions to: Outboard Doctor
Box 126, W. Sayville, N.Y. 11796

I have an Elgin 7½ h.p. motor Model #571.59791 sold by Sears. The motor runs well, but does not pump water. I took apart the pump housing and found the impeller and impeller housing is no good. I went to Sears; they in turn looked up the part number and I was told (N.L.A.) No Longer Available. Could you possibly tell me where I can get parts for this motor. Thank you for your time.
Dominick Perrone

We cannot hold out much hope for you on your Elgin. Electra Marine, Merrick Rd., Lynbrook, N.Y., at one time did carry a large inventory on the older Elgins and Scott Atwater motors. If you call him he can let you know what shape he is in for your particular engine. If you visit him, bring your old pump housing with you as he might find something that matches up. The only other thought we can give you is if you do any traveling upstate, check some of the lakeside marinas. There seems to be a lot of older models still around due to the freshwater conditions which prolong engine life.

* * *

I have a 1975 Evinrude 40 h.p. electric start that once half-throttle or more is applied, she seems to cut back in power as if someone is squeezing the crankshaft. When cold or test running at low idle rpm out of gear, it has some vibration; but otherwise, it's okay when advanced above that rpm range. After several starts and operating in gear for sometime, the rpm's oscillate up and down, or just aren't there. I've had a tune-up at the beginning of the season; plugs, spark, compression, fuel filter are okay. This problem having occurred several times without the engine exploding or destroying itself keeps me hoping it will be an easy one to cure. With repair manual in hand, I await your reply for a fresh approach. *D. Modlow*

As you said you have the repair manual in hand, you no doubt have checked out a few things before writing. Off hand, it sounds like your crankshaft bearings may be the culprit. However, let us check the relatively easy things first. That particular model is not known to be easy on spark plugs. You might check them and also see what number is installed. The M43FF gapped at .030 would be a normal installation. Next look at your spark and throttle synchronization. Your manual will give you the details. While at it check the timing; your cylinders should be firing 180° apart. Any combination of the above could cause the situation you describe—if you are lucky! If, however, the engine varies its rpm at a low speed setting and is exceptionally noisy, you have the probability of worn crankshaft bearings, or—on an outside chance, an armature plate with a lot of side play which needs replacing. Let us know how you make out.

* * *

In the May 29 issue of LIF, your column had a service tip. I have a 1980 Aquasport. I would like to install a Bilge Inspection Port near the stern. What is the best way to cut fiberglass floors to install the port. Your column is very helpful. *Fred G. Stumpf*

The first thing we should say about cutting holes in your fiberglass deck is that you should be a mite cautious. By this we mean plan for the site of your cut, keeping in mind that the surface should be quite flat and that the hole will give you the visibility you want. You mention that you want to install the port at the stern. The center of gravity of your boat is probably just aft of the console. We say this is probable because we don't know what you have in the way of gear aboard, or where you store it. In general though, a planing hull such as your Aquasport has the center of gravity toward the after-third of the boat. This means that with the boat at rest in calm water, any liquids in the bilge would show up at that point. Under way, on plane, they would flow toward the stern. When you have selected your site and have obtained a quality Inspection Port (marine bronze or stainless steel) measure the outside shoulder diameter. Use this measurement to set a drawing compass to the correct radius and scribe your circle. Following that, use a 3/8" or 1/2" drill bit to bore two holes 180° apart from each other just inside of your scribed circle. But stop after drilling the first hole and take a piece of heavy wire, such as coat hanger material and plumb your depth—are you

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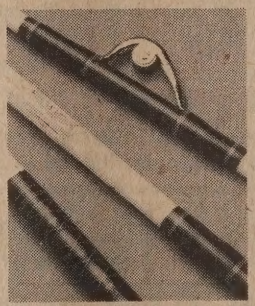

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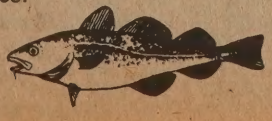
directly over a stringer that will screen out your view? Next, make a bend of about four inches at the end of the wire, re-insert it in the hole and spin it around to uncover any obstructions to your cut. If everything seems okay, use your own portable saber saw (or your neighbor's) with a fine tooth blade to make your cut. Begin by slipping the blade into one of your drilled holes and cut to the scribed circle and follow half-way around. Do not use a coarse blade as it tends to chip fiberglass and dulls easily. Also, do not cut inside your scribe—that is, undercut, as this will cause a lot of grief in the re-cutting for a proper fit. When you have cut half-way around, to the opposing hole, cut across the diameter to the other hole and let the piece fall in. Now you cut your remaining half circle and remove both pieces. If you attempt to cut the full circle on one cut, you stand the chance of it falling in the bilge and it will be difficult to remove. Now you should be ready to slip in the Inspection Port and to drill your hold-down screw holes. By this time you will know the thickness of your deck and the size of your port. If at all possible, use a machine screw with lock-washer and nut. Before installing the port, run a bead of silicone sealer around its shoulder to ensure a watertight fit. Also, with your finger, smear a light coat of multi-purpose grease around the port cover "O" ring. This will help in removal and installation of the cover.

***

I own a 22' 2" Aquasport with twin 1977, 70 h.p. Evinrudes. Presently the boat is equipped with one battery. I am planning on installing another battery with a battery switch. My question is this: I would like to hook up a gauge for each battery and each engine to let me know if the batteries are charging. What type of gauges should I use? How do I hook them up the engines? *Paul S. Goldberg*

It is rather unusual to find a twin engine installation using a single battery. It is just not considered to be a good practice. In fact, it is more usual to find single engine rigs with two batteries, rather than your example. The simple and quick way for you to go would be to simply install a pair of battery cut-off switches for each harness, then install a pair of voltmeters for your battery charge condition. These are very easily hooked up to the ignition switches. The plus (positive) lead would hook up to your purple accessory lead on the switch and the black lead connected to the solid black wire from the switch. It would also be a good idea to fuse your gauges. Most voltmeters come in a standard 2-1/8" diameter size, so a hole saw would make light work of getting the gauges in place.



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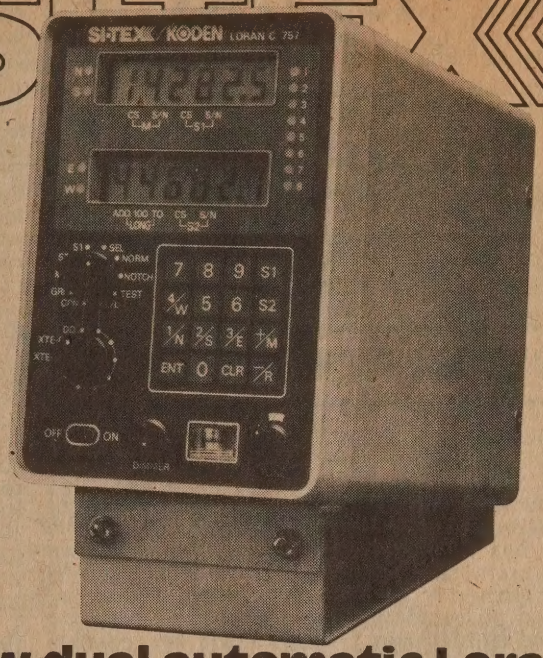

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NATIONAL SCENE
with Al Ristori

Poor Outlook for NMFS Transfer

Despite support from the interior Department and many of the nation's leading conservation organizations, the outlook for transfer of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) from the Commerce Department to Interior is poor. Earlier this year, there were rumors afloat that such a transfer would be effected by Executive Order, but nothing has happened since then—despite the rapidly growing groundswell of support.

My attempts to get some information from President Carter have proven fruitless. A letter asking very specific questions has remained unanswered for over two months—a pretty sad commentary on an administration that was supposed to be "people-oriented." However, Fred Schwab, of Levittown, wrote a letter to the President in response to a column I wrote about this possible transfer—and he got an answer within a few weeks. Unfortunately, that answer from Harrison Wellford, Executive Associate Director for Reorganization and Management, was a very negative one.

According to Wellford: "Despite recent press reports to the contrary, we have no plans to transfer the Service to the Department of the Interior. You might be interested in knowing as well that such a transfer could not be effected by Executive Order, as it would require Congressional approval." It's strange indeed that it's taken so long for this denial to be issued, and it's even stranger that it's being done in such a quiet fasion. To the best of my knowledge, no official announcement has been made—and the Executive Office hasn't even bothered to answer the letter of a journalist seeking information on the subject.

In Washington, things are never what they appear to be on the surface. The rumor about the NMFS transfer wouldn't have cropped up and been taken so seriously if there wasn't some real indication that it was being considered. The Department of the Interior was actively lobbying for the change, and made a very good case—both in terms of resource management and financial savings achieved by eliminating overlapping programs pursued by Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS. Yet, Wellford's letter would seem to indicate that there was no consideration of such a change—and that it couldn't be done without Congressional approval.

Reading between the lines, it appears that NMFS has some friends with influence in either the Administration or Congress—or both. I wouldn't be surprised if it turned out to be the State Department, which has manipulated NMFS like a puppet on a string—but might lose that influence in a stronger Interior Department. The political power of the West Coast tuna interests should also not be discounted. They would have much to fear from conservation-oriented Interior; whereas they presently rule the roost in exploitation-oriented Commerce.

Transfer of NMFS to Interior would have been the best thing that could have happened for the marine sport fisheries and the Councils. While there appears to be little hope of achieving such a transfer this year, it is still a possibility for the future. The next step is to contact our Senators and Congressmen, urging them to introduce legislation to this effect, emphasizing the savings in appropriations and manpower that would result.

Striped Bass Program Plodding Along

When the State/Federal Striped Bass Program was set up a couple of years ago, there were many gullible individuals who actually thought that something **was** going to be accomplished in short order. As it's turned out, things have moved at the expected slow pace, and virtually nothing has been accomplished up to this point—except to improve the dialogue between recreational and commercial fishermen and the state administrators and biologists.

The fact that we're in an era of steadily declining striped bass catches has not added any urgency to the project, despite the untiring efforts of many citizen advisors. Some of those who have worked hardest on the Citizens' Advisory Committee complain about the Sub-Board's refusal to approve the twenty-six inch total length minimum size limit they proposed, or to go along with any meaningful restrictions on commercial fishing. If restrictions fall only on hook and line fishermen, there is no chance that any legislation to implement such regulations will be passed by the legislatures of most of the concerned states.

It's clearly a time for sacrifice, but there still isn't any program that will set up some method of sharing the burden equitably among sport and commercial fishermen. Furthermore, Bob Rubelmann, Maryland's Fisheries Administrator, has stated that "If this plan is ready for adoption by the end of 1982, we will have broken all speed records for an undertaking of this type." That means there will be no regulations coming out of this project until the 1983 season—and by the time those regulations are in place (presuming they're approved by all the states—which isn't a very good bet), there may not be much of a striped bass fishery to worry about.

The one hopeful sign is in our area. There have been good spawning years in the Hudson recently, and the resulting small fish are now spreading well east in Long Island Sound, as well as into north Jersey waters. The ban on commercial fishing for stripers in the Hudson (due to PCB contamination—not for conservation) has undoubtedly helped this situation, but the state must do a better job of enforcing that ban against illegal netters who are making big money, and also enforcing the present sixteen inch limit. Great numbers of these small fish are being taken from the East River and nothing is being done to stop it. With the undersized schoolies spreading throughout the Sound, the problem will become even more acute.

Final Tuna Regs Provide Few Surprises

As of June 13, the regulations governing bluefin tuna fishing off the Atlantic Coast are in place. As reported earlier, a number of changes were made for this year—and some of them make a lot of sense. Finally recognizing that this fishery has developed into one which is almost one hundred percent commercial, NMFS has eliminated the expense of the logbook system. From now on, giant tuna will be reported by dealers—rather than vessel owners. Furthermore, if you already have a license, you won't have to renew it.

Multiple catches will also be permitted if the catch of giant tuna isn't too large. At present, the allowable catch rate is one per boat. However, on August 7 NMFS will review the catch. If thirty percent or more of the quota has been taken, the catch rate will remain at one. If between seventeen and twenty-nine percent has been caught, the daily catch rate will go to two. If less than seventeen percent has been captured, the daily catch rate will go to three.

One bit of bad news was the decision to open the giant tuna purse seine season once again on August 15th. Originally, it had been proposed that it be dropped back to September 1 in order not to interfere with the hand gear fishery that's at its peak during the summer. However, the purse seiners complained that they'd miss a lot of good weather, and stated that they would operate in areas seldom used by hand gear fishermen—and would make a diligent effort to stay clear of smaller vessels.

The purse seiners also managed to prevent the minimum size for seined tuna from being raised from fourteen to nineteen pounds. The new definitions are as follows: school tuna—14 to 135 lbs.; medium tuna—135 to 310 lbs.; giant tuna—equal or greater than 77" to 310 lbs.

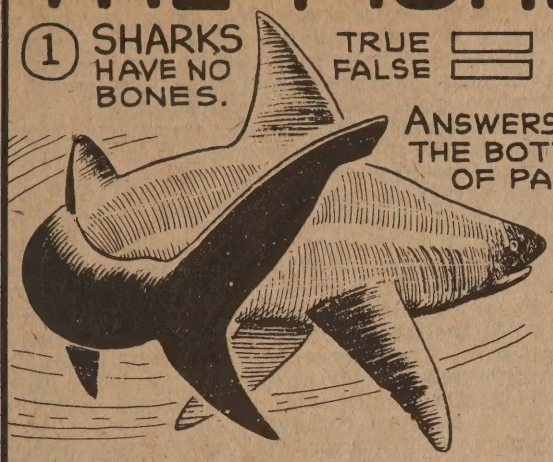
Though the new regulations provide some improve-

(Continued on page 13.)

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

(1) SHARKS HAVE NO BONES. TRUE ☐ FALSE ☐

ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE.

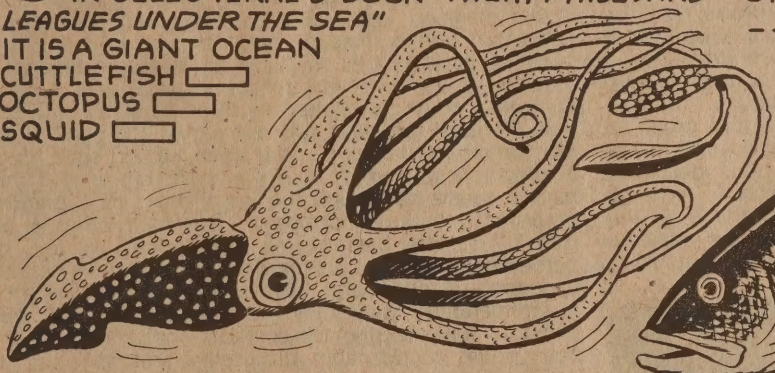


(2) SEA BASS IN N.Y. STATE WATERS CANNOT BE BOUGHT OR SOLD IF THEY ARE LESS THAN 6 IN. ☐ 8 IN. ☐ 10 IN. ☐

BY FRED GUARDINEER

(3) THIS MARINE CREATURE WAS FEATURED IN JULES VERNE'S BOOK "*TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA*" IT IS A GIANT OCEAN

CUTTLEFISH ☐
OCTOPUS ☐
SQUID ☐



(4) FISH THAT LIVE PRIMARILY IN SALTWATER, BUT MUST BREED IN FRESHWATER SUCH AS A STRIPED BASS, ARE CALLED

_____

(5) ON WHAT TYPE OF DAY WILL A PICKEREL STRIKE A LURE MOST READILY ? SUNNY DAY ☐ CLOUDY DAY ☐ RAINY DAY ☐

(6) THIS ISN'T A NEW TYPE TOILET SEAT OR SOME FISH'S JAWS. ALL GOOD FLYRODDERS WILL RECOGNIZE IT AS A

_____

_____

1 - TRUE. THEIR SKELETONS CONSIST OF CARTILAGE. 2 - 8 INCHES. 3 - GIANT SQUID. 4 - ANADROMOUS. 5 - CLOUDY AND RAINY DAYS. 6 - IT'S A LEADER STRAIGHTENER, A LEATHER FOLDER LINED WITH RUBBER PADS. THE LEADER IS PULLED THROUGH THE PADS WHILE PRESSING THEM TOGETHER.

FISH TALK
with William A. Muller

GREEN WATER, SAND EELS, & OTHER THINGS

SAM MAGIONE OF STATEN ISLAND writes about green water. "I live on Staten Island and I realize the effects of pollution in my area. There would be days last summer when I would go down to the beach near my house and the water would be full of green particles. Yet, about a week later I went back there—and to my surprise the water was crystal clear. I remember walking into the water in my shorts and casting for snappers. I could see the snappers flash as they hit my jig. I hope this year the water will be clear and the snapper fishing good again." Sam, you live in an area which is very eutrophic. That means that the water is rich in nutrients—principally from sewage that originates in New York City and the Hudson River. Although the finfish from your area are good to eat, green slimy water can be a turn-off. Although it is hard to say positively what caused the water to turn green as it did, my years of study and firsthand experience in the waters around New York City give me a good idea what happened. Normally, New York City is able to treat its sewage in an adequate way. However, the way the system is designed the storm sewers and the dwelling sewers mix their effluents. Thus, following a heavy rain, the system becomes overloaded. There must, therefore, be a safety valve lest the sewage back up into homes and the street. Therefore, here and there, there are outfall pipes and when the system is loaded with rain runoff, sewage and rain water mix and are dumped into the sea. If this occurs during a period of warm weather, the surface layer of the water will be heavily enriched. This organic enrichment encourages the growth of microscopic green plants called chlorophytes. These plants can multiply rapidly under favorable conditions and can turn the surface water green. In time the plants die off and conditions return to normal.

ED HARING IS A CONTRIBUTOR TO LIF AND he recently sent in an interesting letter. "With few exceptions, most of the fish we endeavor to catch emerge from eggs. Some are fertilized in the open ocean, while others hatch in inland waters. Taking our big three—bluefish, striped bass, and weakfish—we know that the weaks spawn inshore, blues apparently spawn at sea, and bass reproduce in rivers. Now, it is no secret that the junior members of both inshore spawning species have been experiencing a decline, while the snapper population shows no signs of diminishing. Still, it seems that pollution has declined and the waters seem cleaner than they were. As you know, no fish emerges from the egg as a miniature copy of its parents. Many eggs and juvenile fish become part of the plankton which also includes plant species. We know that bunker feed on plankton and unless I'm off base, so do sand eels. It takes an awesome amount of plankton to feed the vast schools of sand eels. I hardly think that it would matter to them what the plankton was. Perhaps the sand eels are eating the eggs of fish like the weaks? I cannot recall when we had such hordes of sand eels with us for so many years; but when I think back, it seems as though the years they were abundant preceded a marked shortage of sport fish? What do you think?" To the best of my knowledge, no one has determined that sand eels prefer one planktonic creature over another, although I believe they consume copepods in tremendous quantities. I believe this has been demonstrated via stomach contents analysis. There has been some considerable discussion that spearing are scarce because the sand eels eat the eggs of this species, although I know of no proof that this is so. My memory about sand eels and game fish abundance isn't too good, therefore, I can neither deny nor corroborate your recollection. However, it is logical that such tremendous numbers of a small fish that eats smaller menu items could impact upon the survival rate of game fish and baitfish species. However, there remain too many intangibles about the ocean and its moods to guarantee that removal of the sand eels would bring about an increase in the number of game fish—even if we could do it!

HENRY COHEN HAS GOT TO BE A VERY COURAGEOUS GUY. "I have been an avid reader of your publication for many years and I have fished all over Long Island following your recommendations with great success in the past. This last year I suffered a stroke which left me paralyzed on one side. Could you tell me how I can continue to fish with one arm. My right side is unaffected and I can use my right hand to cast and retrieve, but I cannot use my left hand to hold and lift the rod. I would appreciate any help you could give me to solve my problem. I feel sure that you or someone who reads this column might have run into a similar problem and have ideas how to solve it." Well, Henry, first let me say that I'm glad you have benefitted from my past advice. You must have added your own embellishments to my advice because you indicate that you have had good success. I can only wonder what those embellishments were because as I have followed my own advice, I haven't fared nearly as well! Seriously, Henry, I think that you have already solved ninety percent of your problem because, unlike some others who wilt like a tender plant on a hot day after a tragedy like the one you have experienced, you are determined that this mishap will not ruin your life. That's courage and that's most of the problem. I don't know how

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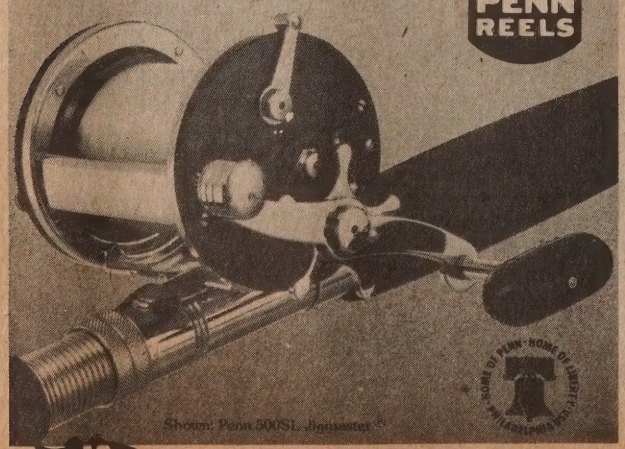


Shown: Penn 500SL Jigmaster®

helpful I can be since I have never found myself in that situation and I haven't trained in that field, either. Perhaps you are right that the best ideas will come from some of our readers out there. I'd be glad to let this column serve as a clearing house for ideas to help Henry. Send them to me, c/o The Long Island Fisherman, Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. In the meantime, have you contacted a physical therapist? They can probably either help you directly or lead you to other specialists who can. I also remember a fella who had lost an arm in the accident. He, like you, was determined to fish. He liked the surf and the boat and so he came up with a system for each situation. Of course, he was limited in the size of the outfit he could use in the surf, but he made a device out of strap material. He attached one end to the rod snug above the reel and the other end went around his neck. He would cast and then place the rod butt between his legs so that the strap went tight. When he had a hit, he squeezed the butt with his thighs to maximize the control he could exert on the throbbing rod. It wasn't a perfect system, but he caught his share and most important—he had a lot of fun. In the boat he rigged a special rod holder that eliminated the need for the other hand. Henry, keep fighting and with your positive attitude, you'll catch more than your share!

DOUG MULLEN OF HARTSDALE ASKS ABOUT ROD AND REEL COMBOS. "For years I have been fishing conventional tackle both in a boat and in the surf. For a conventional surf reel, I have a 7000 and 9000 Ambassadeur reel and a 9½' custom made rod. When I had my boat at Star Island Yacht Club, I did a lot of plugging from my boat. I sold my boat a few years ago and I just go out with friends now. I would like to put together a spinning surf outfit that I could use at Montauk and at Cape Cod. I was thinking about a 10½' Fenwick blank with a Penn 750 SS reel. Could you suggest anything different? Also, is the reel okay or would you use a smaller one? I would like to use RedFins and Rebels with a teaser." Doug goes on to suggest that the spinning outfit might come in handy for use by his wife. It seems the family spends a lot of time up on Cape Cod and the family wants to try their hands at some of those big surf-caught bass. Doug, I may be the wrong guy to ask about surf rod and reel combinations. I take a lot of ribbing from friends about the size of my reels matched to various rods from guys like John Fritz, who also writes for us. I guess they are right, but much of this sport is individualistic. To me, many of the reels I see on the beach are under-matched to the rods they sit on. I like a big reel because of the rate at which line can be retrieved, the power they can generate, the sturdy construction, and the weight. To me, the weight may be most important of all. I like to have weight on the butt side of the rod because I find it makes for a better balance system and fatigue is much less of a problem for me during a long night's fishing. I think that the 10½' size is about right for Rebel and RedFin work but you need to select the proper tip action that will allow you to combine power with the flexibility needed to toss light plugs. Generally, a rapid taper is best for that. You might want a smaller reel like the 710, Zebco Cardinal Seven, Garcia 306 or other similar size product. However, I don't know much about you. I don't know anything about your body architecture, your age, your strength, your likes and dislikes, or what medical limitation may come into play. Therefore, I suggest to you what I have suggested so many times before, simply because in the long run it is the best way. Go to a neighborhood tackle shop and talk to an expert who can measure your grip span, talk to you about fishing habits, and let you get the feel of many blanks in the store. The shop owner will probably be willing to tape various reels onto the blank so that you can get some idea of how reels of different sizes will feel. Then when you reach your decision, he'll sell you the quality material so you can make that rod. When it's done you know you have the best and you'll get many enjoyable hours out of that tackle.

THANKS TO VINCE CORRADO for a humorous anecdote. Vince tells a story about his "lucky" friend, Andy. It seems that Andy is the kind of guy who, through no fault of his own, was born with a little black cloud over his head that follows him everywhere. Well, one day Vince and Andy went fluke fishing. Although the mate filleted many of the fluke as they came over the rail, potential pool winners were held aside. Then a fella takes a nice fluke. However, that fish was just a shade lighter than the existing pool winner, so the fish was filleted and the carcass thrown overboard. A minute or so later, Andy announced that he had a fish and reeled in...you guessed it—the carcass of the discarded fish! However, that isn't necessarily bad luck. It's all in how you look at it. On the one hand, you could consider it to be bad luck because he picked up a discarded fish with no meat on it. On the other hand, it could be considered very lucky when you think about the odds against hooking the discarded skeleton. As the philosophers say, the glass is either half-full or half-empty—depending on how you choose to look at it.

THANKS TO TODAY'S CONTRIBUTORS. The letters were great, but unfortunately we can't give a Shakespeare rod to everybody. You can still enter the contest. If you have a question or a comment to make about marine science, marine finfish, or the environment, write to me at The Fisherman. In two weeks, we will announce the August winner of the rod. It is indeed a pleasure for the Shakespeare Tackle Manufacturing Company and The Long Island Fisherman to make this contest available to their readers.

MID-MORNING BLUES

(Continued from page 18.)

the two bait, deep bottom bumping rig already explained. Put a spoon on the lower leader of ten feet in length and a surgical tube on the top leader of 20' length. Put your rig down to the bottom and proceed to deep troll right through the blues which you see on the surface. This procedure will cause the bluefish to sound. They will go to the bottom. In a couple of minutes at a very slow "tickety-tickety" pace with your big sinker bumping the bottom, you will soon find your rods bending with bluefish. This is a very effective method and works ninety percent of the time.

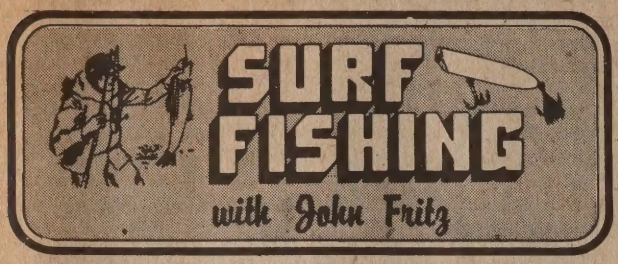
The second predicament occurs when the blues are seen rolling on the top and baitfish are only seen one at a time. You see the blues, but can't catch them. Sometimes a surface plug or popping plug will coax a strike, but not often. These are feeding fish. You know it and the gulls know it. However, the bluefish will not take your bait. When this occurs, place your bait on the bottom with the same very slow, clickety-click bottom tapping gait. Use your spoons. You will take fish soon. When you see this phenomena, it should be evident that bluefish are routing bait off the bottom. Blues will chase a single baitfish to the surface, catch or lose it and knowing there is a readily available lunch below they will return to the bottom.

If you are fishing for smaller bluefish you can employ 30 lb. trolling rods, 3/0 reels and 30 lb. test monel or stainless wire line. You will still use an eight foot dropper, but can shorten up to six feet for the bottom leader and reduce the upper 20' leader to 15'. For bluefish in the three to eight pound category 30 lb. test mono leaders are adequate.

Do you get the "midmorning blues?" **You should** if you try bumping and tapping the bottom at a very slow troll. The procedures already described catch fish during these seemingly very unproductive periods. So, get down there with your lures and lead. Start bumping and tapping the bottom. You will entice impatient, bottom dwelling blues to strike. If you do not want to catch fish, stay on the surface and enjoy the sun. If you want to eat bluefish, get your tackle down to the bottom and give the procedures explained a good attempt. You will be surprised at the results.

Good fishing and do get the "midmorning blues."

After devouring one of the Store's famous "egg on roll," the second cup of coffee and cigarette was being relished amid idle chatter concerning the sluggish surf fishing of this particular August. Not much attention was paid to the steady stream of customers flowing through the door. Even when a new arrival



A Place of Surprising Constancy

asked for the scale, there was only mild interest, for what creature of interest could this dead surf produce? Probably some pier fisherman was lucky enough to land a stray fluke which he believed worthy of checking in for recognition. The still-quivering stripes gave rise to several immediate questions beginning with where and how. The when was obvious—one fish was still alive.

After many seasons of pounding the surf, one learns not to rush a successful angler with dozens of questions concerning his catch. If he is willing to talk, the details will come freely; if not, inquiries will produce generalities and vague answers. In this particular case, the advice was "Gilgo on bait." When receiving information from strangers on surf-caught fish, one can either ignore it completely follow it as gospel, or try to reason out the stated facts in regard to existing conditions. There probably was some essence of truth in the technique and general area which was sufficient incentive to give it a try on the following tide. Results? Nothing this time but add another bit of knowledge to the store of information regarding fishing from the beach.

This catch of striped bass a month before the accepted start of the fall run was taken as a sign that good bass fishing lay ahead along the stretch of beach from Cedar to Jones. Sometimes it does not pay to be optimistic, for except for monster blues, this was probably the most outstanding single-handed catch of the season from this particular area. All of which proves once again what has been stated so many times before: "Put the time in and you'll get fish."

In past years, prior to the decline of the bass populations, many surfmen would energetically plug this shore line with positive results. Nowadays it is a challenge just to locate an accommodating bluefish; therefore, the majority of regulars working this beach spend their time fishing bait. One of the better locations for this pastime is the oceanfront at Tobay.

This bathing beach is regulated by the Town of Oyster Bay, which means that residence requirements are in effect during the summer season. Generally this restriction is relaxed before eight in the morning or on days promising inclement weather. Since there are no beach buggies permitted on Nassau County beaches, it is necessary to park your vehicle in the parking lot and walk across the ocean parkway to reach the waterfront. There is an underpass which leads to the oceanfront pavilion for those so inclined.

The general formation of the beach in this area is nondescript, although careful study at low water will reveal an offshore bar starting at a point seaward of the pavilion. This bar angles toward the beach in a westerly direction, thus causing the sluice to narrow the farther west one travels. On the eastern or open end of the funnel, a bar lying perpendicular to the beach partially closes this outlet. The arrangement of these bars forms a pocket of deeper water close inshore which is the location favored by many anglers fishing this area.

It is debatable whether the wreck lying off the beach several hundred yards southeast of the pavilion has a direct effect on the formation of this bar, but it is recognized to be an attraction for striped bass within this general area. The wreck is a famed blackfish spot which also produces many cow bass for the informed boatman. At any rate, formations of sand lying in zones susceptible to the effects of battering waves can be shifted after one savage storm. Given sufficient time with mild winds, the bottom configuration will reform into the pattern described previously. When this is found to be the case the preferred fishing locations lie between the west side of the pavilion and a point approximately five hundred yards west. After a few trips to the area a more specific location might be chosen, but fish have been taken all along this stretch of beach. Hot fishing can be had on the eastern end one day, with the opposite producing better on the next tide.

The preferred tide is near the high water stage, although any tide can produce on a given day, more important is the direction and force of the wind. A strong wind from the north or northwest flattens the surf and tends to blow sand and debris into the wash roiling the water, to the detriment of good fishing. Forceful east or west winds sweep along the beach making bottom fishing difficult but often productive for the commotion caused by these winds stirs life into the surf. The winds considered best for fishing this beach come from a southerly direction which produces the desirable white water while forcing the baitfish closer to shore. Naturally any wind approaching gale force has too great an effect on the surf by stirring the bottom and creating such a heavy surf that holding bottom becomes impossible. An ideal wind would be of a southerly direction with a force of fifteen to twenty-five miles per hour, but as most anglers realize, perfect conditions often yield little but expectations, while what is considered to be an ill-timed trip produces fish.

Excessive weed can become a problem when surf fishing this area, although it usually is not as abundant as that found when fishing closer to Fire Island Inlet. Frequently this weed will accumulate in certain pockets which are determined by the tide and wind conditions prevailing at that time. Before leaving the beach in disgust, experiment in different locations. A place may be found which will permit fishing with a minimum of interference from the masses of seaweed. On extremely bad days, large masses of eel grass and cabbage will collect on the line and carry the terminal gear into the wash in short order.

A method used by some surfmen to help alleviate this situation is to use large sand spikes. These spikes will hold the maximum amount of line above the weed-infested wash area. If an angler does not possess such spikes, the same effect can be accomplished by standing in the wash and holding the rod as high as possible with the butt resting on the hip. These techniques will help when conditions are marginal, but there are occasions when nothing will ease the weed problem except a change in wind or tide, and it is better to pack it in.

Most surfmen prefer rods of eleven foot lengths capable of casting four to six ounces of lead and the bait to respectable distances. Reels fully spooled with fifteen to twenty pound test line in perfect operating condition should be used. Equipment less than what is described can be used if no other is available; but when large fish and a heavy surf are present, this angler will be at a disadvantage. Waders are a must during periods of cold weather and high waves, but short boots or even bathing suits are adequate at other times. It is during periods of difficult conditions that anglers possessing the proper equipment will be able to continue fishing when those not so equipped are forced to leave the beach.

The species most sought after by the regulars are striped bass and bluefish with incidental catches of weakfish, sharks and stingrays added to spice the menu. Live eels are probably the most frequently chosen bait with bunker, mackerel, or mullet effective substitutes. When bluefish are abundant, pieces of dead eel can

supplant the bait supply. When cut bait is to be used, the fresh item is preferred, but this is impractical in many instances. If the bait has to be previously frozen, it should be kept frozen as long as possible while on the beach. Once defrosted it should not be refrozen; therefore, only the amount needed for that trip should be taken to the beach.

The fishfinder rig is the most favored terminal gear, especially when using live eels. Short-shanked tuna hooks, ranging in sizes from 3/0 to 5/0 will provide a strong hook without excessive weight. Where to place this hook in the eel is a matter of much discussion and probably boils down to an individual's personal preference. Whether hooked through one jaw, both jaws, both eyes, the tail or in the middle of the back, is irrelevant as long as he stays on the hook without tangling. Much has been said about how a bass will pick up a live eel and whether one should strike immediately or allow the fish to run before setting the hook. There are pros and cons to both techniques, but the method commonly used at the Cape is to quickly drop the rod tip when a pick-up is felt and then set the hook when pressure is applied by the fish.

Another object of much discussion among surfmen concerns the use of a wire leader when fishing for bass. Many maintain the keen-eyed bass will shy away from the visible wire leaders even though numerous bass have been taken on wire. When teen-sized blues are present, a switch to wire is advised unless an angler has no desire to land any of these monsters once they are hooked.

When fishing cut bait, the fishfinder rig is once again the overwhelming choice, but a cork float must be added in an attempt to keep the bait from scavenging crabs. Although this rarely works completely when great numbers of crabs are present, the cork does make their bait-stealing practice a bit more difficult for the crab. The longer a bait in good condition is presented, the better the chances of enticing a prowling game fish.

Other rigs used with some success are the surf rig, which is a three-way swivel with one lead to the sinker, one to the hook, and the line attached to the remaining eye. Instead of using the surf rig, a pompano rig will allow the angler to present two baited hooks rather than one. This rig consists of little more than forming two loops in the line at various intervals above the sinker and securing a hook to each loop.

Large bass generally begin to appear in these waters around June 1, with peak action during the month and slowing down drastically by mid-July. During August, inclement days accompanied by strong southerly winds can produce good action for a short period of time. With the arrival of cooler weather in September, striper action begins to pick up in conjunction with fine fishing for alligator blues and a true monster: the stingray. These rays often attain weights of one hundred pounds, although few that size are successfully beached.

Tobay offers one more location on the Jones Beach waterfront. With the permanent closing of Parking Field #9 and the bar at Cedar all but wiped out, Tobay has produced surprisingly consistent action throughout the years. If a non-resident, please mind your manners, for good fishing areas are becoming increasingly hard to come by.

NATIONAL SCENE:
DIM OUTLOOK FOR NMFS TRANSFER

(Continued from page 8.)

ments, they still don't come face to face with the basic issue of putting an end to the purse seine fishery for school tuna until the stocks are once again in good shape. And while the giant tuna regulations may be equitable and necessary in view of the declining numbers of large spawners, they are almost meaningless when one considers the 8,000 giant tuna which the Japanese take from the Gulf of Mexico each spring!

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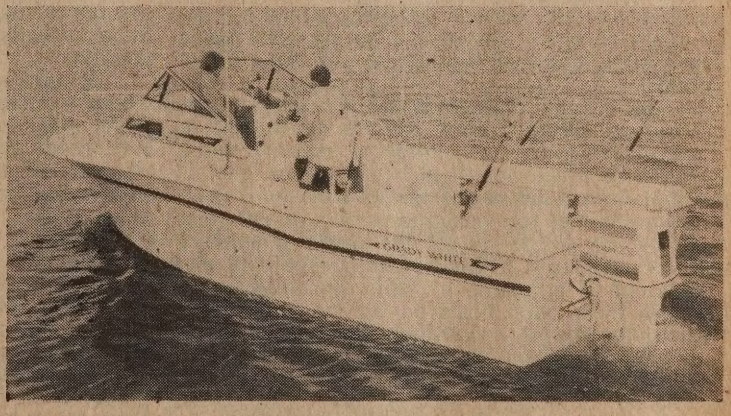

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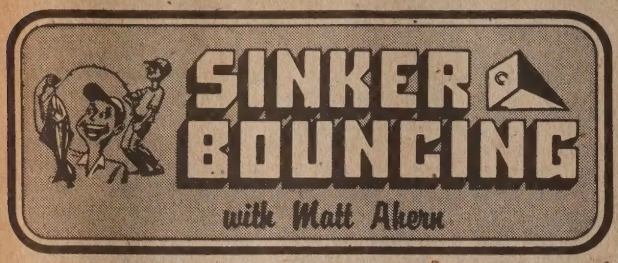


★PORTRAIT OF A FISHERMAN★

—PART THREE—

Parts One and Two of this series dealt mostly with personal experiences as I attempted in the long ago to learn the party boat bottom fishing game. And all this the result of my endeavor to answer Eric Cisar's letter to Bill Muller, in which Mr. Cisar requested information on how to catch more and bigger fish while party boat fishing. I tried not to discourage Mr. Cisar when I agreed with Bill that fishing every three or four weeks was hardly enough to develop the finesse needed to excel at this particular branch of the sport. But this is so.

I found that out soon enough in those long ago days, for it actually wasn't until the opportunity to become a party boat mate came along that I found my overall catch beginning to increase with a noticeable degree of consistency. This stroke of luck, for a multitude of reasons, is nothing to crow about, for it came during those great days of superb bottom fishing. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time.

I'm sure from the tone of his letter, Mr. Cisar cannot count on such an opportunity happening to him, although I've got the feeling he'd like nothing better. Therefore, this article will deal primarily with methods I learned and used in order to deck those bottom-feeding fish I'm positive Mr. Cisar wants to catch—which, incidentally, I also desperately wanted to catch while yet a knee-pants youngster with little or no previous experience. Perhaps Mr. Cisar can use some of these methods the next time he steps aboard his favorite party boat.

Lest I lead you astray, let me say that during those days a beginner didn't always fill his butter tub to overflowing, but as slow as fishing might have been on off-days (and don't let anyone tell you differently, we had our share of them), this fellow always went home with fish. Getting some kind of action was the least of his problems.

What was of more importance to this fisherman was finding someone willing to teach him the ropes. And in this he was indeed fortunate...unless he foolishly held a wise-guy attitude which would get him nowhere—just as it does today, human nature being what it is.

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you was certainly the watchword of the day, for when a beginner truly showed a desire to learn, there really was never much of a problem. In fact, aid often came unbidden, for those party boats during the days of my youth carried scores of passengers who were indeed superb fishermen. These master fishermen, as I term them, seemed always willing to show a beginner, or one lacking needed experience, exactly how to go about catching whatever fish were of interest at the moment.

By this I don't mean that today's party boat fishermen don't know what they are doing. Perish the thought! There are plenty of mighty good fishermen around—fishermen who come up with ideas and methods that certainly put mine to shame. This I know for a fact, for seldom does a party boat trip pass today that I don't personally find this so. As I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, I am definitely not a whiz-bang fisherman. I don't go out there and fish rings around the competition. Not by a long shot.

The methods I use today—many of which were learned over a half-century ago—still produce, of course. Fish don't change—only fishermen. But because I'm not set in my ways, I'm always open for suggestion. Nor am I one bit proud, for truly, foolish, false pride goes before a fall. Therefore, when you've finished this series of articles (one more to follow), and find you are using methods which make fishing easier and more productive, let me hear from you. Should I receive enough of these to warrant a column, I'll be only too glad to write one and give credit for the information used. Only in this way can we fellows share our knowledge and make fishing more enjoyable for all concerned.

Now to get back.

I don't know what your favorite party boat fish is, so when I say the winter cod is mine, I don't expect every fisherman to agree it is his, too. But that's all right, for if we all had the same thoughts on fishing, much of the fun would be lost.

"Fun," though, when applied to my early endeavors to catch cod is certainly not the ideal word to use; you can bet I didn't find much of it involved with my efforts to learn on my own. Truthfully, all I found in the beginning was much discouragement.

But as happened so often in those early fishing days, there were always compassionate fishermen nearby who literally took me by the hand and showed me the way it was done. What follows are several cod-catching methods taught me during those early years. There are many of these, but space does not allow me to mention them all. Therefore, I have selected those which have given me the best results throughout various fishing conditions.

The use of proper tackle for cod need not be discussed because it is common knowledge that rugged tackle is required for these rugged fish. No one is going out there with spinning tackle—at least I hope not. Better to spend our time on proven methods that entice cod to the baited hook.

And in order to do this, bait—and how it is used—is of prime importance.

Cod attack anything which looks good to eat (and somethings perhaps not so good. I once caught a cod with a rubber boot heel in its stomach). If its prey is small enough to fit into that cavernous mouth, that's enough for Mr. Cod—which you must admit covers a great deal of territory.

While I've seen cod caught on such far-out bait as chicken heads, we should dispense with the exotics immediately. Let's stick to the common codfish bait found aboard party boats: skimmer. And it is through the use of this bait that many fishermen come a cropper, for actually how you use skimmer can make or break your day.

Of course, if you hit into one of those fantastic trips where cod bite on anything and everything lowered to them, what is about to follow will prove of no value. Who needs specialized methods on such days? But how often do we find such codfishing? To tell you the truth, I haven't enjoyed a day like that in years. But this isn't to say you won't catch cod because of this. They are still available for those fishermen who use good fishing methods.

When you can avoid doing so, don't use fresh skimmer. I know this goes against everything you've been told about the importance of always using fresh bait. There was a time when I, too, felt as you and I always hovered around the mate when bait was being prepared for the day's fishing. I wanted to be sure the skimmer I used was the freshest possible. I caught cod with the fresh stuff, all right, but when I was advised by an expert codfisherman that it would be to my advantage to seek out day-old stuff, my catch did increase—exactly as I was told it would.

The reasons given for this were sensible enough. Fresh-cut live skimmer remains tough for some time. A test I was taught is this: if a newly-shucked skimmer, or skimmer slice, quivers to the touch, it is too fresh to use for best results.

It sometimes takes hours, especially in cold weather, for skimmer to become truly soft, but when you find it in this condition, don't pass it up. Just so

long as skimmer isn't stale (whitish in appearance and quite limp, especially with a bad odor), cod will accept it with relish.

But it isn't only the poor selection of bait which causes trouble.

The size hook you use for cod is also important. Most fellows use 8/0 Sproat hooks, thinking that because the cod is large-mouthed, large hooks are necessary. Not so. I've been using 5/0 Sproats at least fifty years and with them I've decked hundreds of cod with not one bit of trouble. (Another excellent cod hook is the commercial fisherman's Limerick—size 5/0—which I sometimes use with no complaints.) And remember, it is to your advantage to use hooks of familiar manufacture. Avoid "Hong Kong Specials."

The reasoning behind using hooks smaller than 8/0 isn't because a large hook may frighten the fish as some fellows have told me (and they may have a point there), but because when using smaller hooks there is no temptation to overload them with bait. Two or three whole skimmers, or gobs of pre-sliced stuff, are not nearly s acceptable to cod as one or two medium-sized slices. Watch crackerjack codfishermen when they bait-up and you'll see what is meant. These fellows have learned their lesson the hard way.

Another reason for using less bait on your hook is that, being lighter, the current will hold it away from the main line. Cod are spooky and anything you can do to avoid putting them on the alert is certainly in your favor. Heavy gobs of bait have a tendency to hang down and entwine about the main line. It is doubtful a spooky cod will bother to spend time in the unwinding.

I believe the reason many fellows excel at codfishing is because they are continuously experimenting. I've done my share of this, too; but I don't think I would have ever come up with the following two methods on my own, simply because my mental processes do not take in such finesse.

I recall one chilly December morning codfishing on the Cholera Bank from the bow of the old Rose R II. The old-timer sharing the spot with me was taking two fish to my one. Try as I might, I could detect no particular difference in our riggings. Our hooks and baits seemed identical, but still he was getting most of the action. Finally, I could stand it no longer and asked for some enlightenment.

Well, it seemed I wasn't as observant as I thought. All this old-timer did was cast his rig as close to the anchor line as possible. That's all it took. He told me he believed the underwater force of a full-flowing tide thrumming against the cable set up a type of echo which made inquisitive cod investigate further...and while doing so, they came across his bait. (And this long before the word "sonar" was coined!) Whether his explanation was correct, I don't know, but I do know he caught more cod than anyone on board—and always did!

And then I had another old-timer come up with a novel idea—an idea that worked more often than not. And this, too, had to do with tide.

This fellow always went codfishing with an assortment of previously prepared leaders in various lengths. These leaders (with hooks pre-snelled to them) ranged eighteen, twenty-four, thirty-six and forty-eight inches. If the tide was near to slack, he used one of eighteen inches. When it picked up, he went to twenty-four. If fishing during full moon tide, he selected the thirty-six incher. The four footer he saved for exceptional strong tides when fishing open bottom. Beyond that, he refused to go.

When it became necessary to increase leader length, he also increased sinker weight. It was most important, he said, that the rig remain firmly on bottom. And here again the principle of sonar came into use. He, like the old-timer just mentioned, was certain the sound of the tide passing around his taut line attracted curious cod. With but one difference. It was this fisherman's belief that not only are cod spooky, but because of this, they would approach just so far in their investigation. But while doing so, they, as did those cod drawn to the anchor cable, also found bait dangling before them. The old-timer told me that the stronger the tide, the better his method worked.

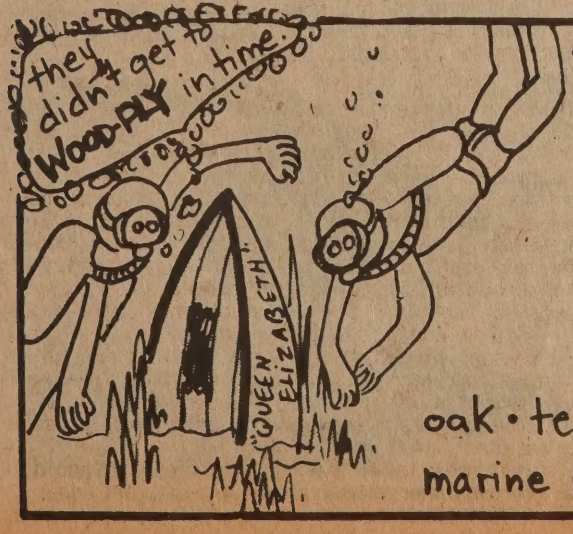
Now, those last two methods show to what extent codfishing fanatics will go in order to bring Old Whiskers to gaff. You must admit that much thought had gone into them. But there are methods one can use which are nothing more than plain common sense.

One old-timer with whom I codfished several times told me never to be in a hurry to get bait overboard when first arriving at a spot. To do so, he said, only got a guy into tangles caused by eager-beavers who couldn't wait until the boat settled. He was right, of course. And not only that, this fellow also said all those sinkers striking bottom at the same time served only to frighten the larger, more cautious fish. He was right about that, too, for often his first fish of the day was the pool winner...caught while other fishermen were fuming over tangled lines.

This same fellow also told me that when drifting for cod, a fisherman should never change his place at the rail even if fishing from the opposite side offered easier fishing conditions. It is far better, he said, to drift a rig under the boat for the simple reason that the boat must first pass over the fish before the fellows on the opposite side get a chance at them.

And this is about it for now.

I intended to include a bit on blackfishing methods learned in the long ago, but I've about run out of space. We'll get to it next week, though, plus a bit on fluke catching.



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Blue Water Fishing

by Pete Barrett

Part III—HOW & WHERE

Getting eye to eye with a big yellowfin tuna, a white marlin or a flashy green dolphin is what offshore blue water fishing is all about. We've covered the basics of selecting tackle and rigging up in the previous two parts, so now it's time to take a look at some areas to fish and the methods that catch the fish.

I've heard some anglers call offshore fishing a science, and perhaps that's true—but it is an inexact science at best. There are only general rules, guidelines and past experiences to go by. There are no absolutes, no guarantees, and no sure-fire ways to catch. This style of trolling is hard work, requires lots of thought and the ability to analyze the daily situations and blend them with the experiences of the past for a good catch today.

Years ago, a captain could simply steer "east" and be reasonably assured of eventually getting a strike. Today, anglers scrutinize charts, run Loran numbers, watch water temp gauges, rip lines and wind direction to find likely fishing spots.

THE CHART

If you are new to offshore trolling, it would be very helpful to get hold of the offshore chart for the waters you will be fishing. Take blue, red and black magic markers and follow the fifteen, twenty and twenty-five fathom curves shown on the chart. There is an amazing variety of bottom structure that literally jumps out at you after the magic markers have traced the curves. What looked like endless miles of nothing suddenly becomes miles and miles of deep holes, finger-like high ground, ridges, sheer dropoffs and ledges.

Two good examples of excellent bottom structure are the finger-like bottom ten miles due south of Shinnecock on the fifteen fathom line and the fingers on the twenty fathom line twenty miles east of Barnegat. There are literally dozens of other areas to fish.

TEMPERATURE

Most of the offshore species we are looking for will seek water of at least 68° and favor water of 70° to 74°. I watch the temperature gauge to find edges of different water temperatures. These are often good fishing areas, especially if the temperature edge corresponds to a piece of bottom structure.

SETTING THE LINES

The basic pattern to set out the lines and baits is to use four rods. Two are called flat lines run off the transom and two others (the rigger lines) are run off outriggers to the side. The riggers give a spread to the baits; the flat lines keep baits right in the turbulent prop wash.

The dropback of the baits will vary with water conditions and the fish you are after. As a start, set the flat lines back at approximately forty to sixty feet; the rigger lines 75' to 125'. You must tune the actual distance to the wake of the boat. It is generally best to position the baits at the crest of a wave or swell caused by the wake of the boat and the prop wash.

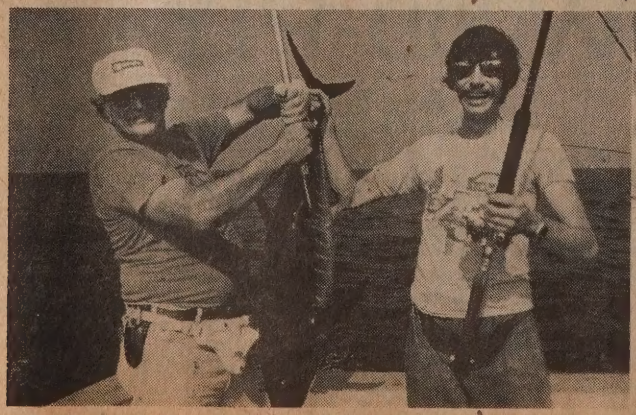
It is possible to set out more lines—often as many as eight or more. Since I fish from a center console I'm limited and try to keep things simple. Even on larger craft, I'd stick with no more than six lines, and still preferably four. Four lines are easy to handle by a small crew, especially where each man may not have lots of experience offshore. There is a lot less confusion with four rods.

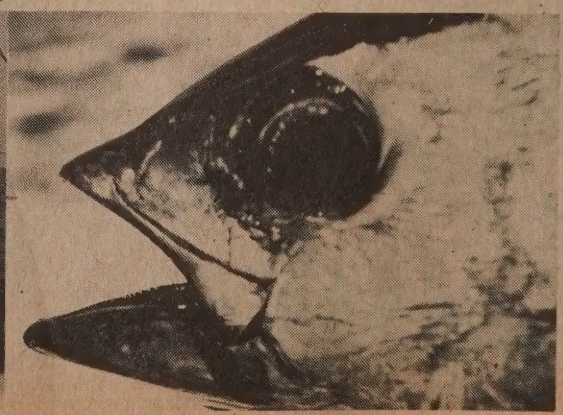
TROLLING SPEED

My Mako will troll at a different speed than your Bertram, Topaz or Robalo, so it makes little sense to match my exact trolling speed, which is always expressed in RPMs. An inboard will troll differently than an outboard; a planing hull differently than a deep-V or a displacement hull. Again we must rely on guides.

My boat trolls well at 1500 to 2400 RPMs—the actual speed depending on the wind, current, and chop on the water. I'll try for a speed that bubbles nicely, has lots of white water and spreads a wake out to the sides as best it can. The baits are then set out and watched. The engine speed is increased or decreased until the baits are riding properly. That speed is noted mentally so when a fish hits and we shut down, I can later return to that speed quickly after the fish is boated. The position of baits is also noted. It can be a big help to bring a scratch pad along to write things down. I often write directly on the console with a pencil to mark Loran numbers, RPMs and other notes. It washes off back at the dock.

The key to trolling speed is the baits themselves. The lures must work correctly, regardless of the engine speed needed to maintain the best lure action.





The fresh caught yellowfin tuna (above left) hit a Spider Maiolo in Green Machine colors at Wilmington canyon. Getting eyeball to eyeball with a hefty yellowfin tuna to 150 or more pounds in ice blue waters is what offshore fishing is all about.

THE TROLLING PATTERN

Once in position at an offshore location, I use the graph recorder to show me the rise and fall of bottom structure. The temp gauge marks the water temperature; the Loran marks the exact position of the boat. We try to run a zigzag pattern across the bottom structure, along temperature edges and along rip lines. When a strike occurs, the memory button on the Loran, a Texas Instrument 9000A, is punched to record the exact position of the hook-up and then marked on the chart so the same spot can be returned to after the fish is boated.

Many offshore species tend to swim with the wind, so a pattern that runs quarter to the seas is a good approach. With mild winds you can run with the wind, against it or across it. Some anglers run compass courses back and forth, setting up a grid pattern that criss-crosses an area with a series of 90° intersections until fish are found.

The important thing is to work at a pattern. Trolling aimlessly with only eternal hope of lucking into fish is often fruitless. The science of offshore fishing is in the approach and the trolling pattern.

LURE SELECTION

Different sea and wind conditions require different lures. A choppy, windy or gusty day makes small baits hard to see, so the best bet would be for larger lures and lures that have some action—like the Kona heads. Milder seas, but with large swells, are perfect for bubblers, jet lures and others that stream lots of bubbles. Very calm days call for a mixture of streaming bubblers and lures with fast action to create sonic vibrations.

Again, there is no hard and fast rule. Experimentation is the keynote. Another popular guide is the assumption that billfish like lures with more action, while tunas like flashy streaming lures with lots of bubbles. That may be true, but we've seen tunas crash a Knucklehead meant for a marlin and marlin light up over a small skirt meant for a bluefin.

THE STRIKE

There are two ways to properly set the reels for the strike. With natural baits, the reels can be left in free spool with clicks on or with an extremely light drag. With artificial lures, the reels are prepared at strike drag.

Many fish will hit a natural bait, then fool with it until they swallow it so the angler can strike the fish. After the initial hit, some fish will drop the bait and the angler must jerk and twitch the bait so the fish hits again and then runs with the bait. After he thinks the fish has the bait down, the reel is flipped into gear and the fish is struck hard.

With artificials the fish are most often hooked at the initial strike. The reels are set with a drag at about twenty-five to thirty percent of the test of the line. At the strike the angler lifts the rod from the holder and hits the fish two or three times to be sure the hook is set in deep.

Many tuna fishermen keep the reels in gear and ready regardless of the bait—either natural or fake. Billfish, more than other species, require some extra effort to hook up.

HARD WORK

The best offshore trollers work hard to put together a good catch of fish. The days of trolling lazily into the horizon are gone forever—at least if you expect to see some action and fish on the deck.

A good blue water angler is constantly watching the graph recorder for changes in the bottom, the temp gauge for temperature edges, the condition of the wind, the chop of the water, the action of the lures, the characteristics of the wake, and the distances of the baits in the wake.

Trolling speeds can be varied; the zigzag trolling pattern can be adjusted to take advantage of the structure beneath you; baits and lures can be changed to try different colors; actions and lure sizes for a change in silhouette.

Keep your eyes peeled for fish that show either near the wake, or for breaking fish. On numerous occasions, we've found skipjacks, bonito and small tuna crashing bait and causing a wake of a surface commotion that was easy to spot. Marlin may show behind the baits and study them for awhile before striking. If you see them you can add some action to the lure or bait by working the rod tip and often tease them into a strike.

Successful blue water angling is definitely hard work, but it pays off. Perhaps in no other type of fishing are the rewards so great and the effort so demanding.

IT'S UP TO YOU

We have presented this series on offshore fishing as a guide. Anyone who says he knows it all is a fool, and we certainly don't expect that these short stories will answer every question on this style of fishing. It would literally take a book—a large volume in fact—to cover it all. Our aim was to whet your appetite and hopefully get you started in a facet of of fishing that is becoming more and more popular each year.

There is a whole new world of angling out there just beyond the horizon. We are just beginning to learn its secrets, techniques, rewards and its future. The challenge is great, the fishing enjoyable and the solitude is soothing.

Ted Glicksman, skipper of the "Whales Tales" gaffs a large yellowfin tuna offshore of the New York Bight area.

Tips to try when the action slows—

MID-MORNING BLUES?

by Einar "Doc" Grell

How often have you overslept and arrived at the bluefishing grounds at 10AM, only to find that the fish just stopped biting? How often have you knocked the bluefish crazy between six and ten in the morning, only to have the bottom drop out of the fishing shortly after ten? How often have you thought that any idiot can catch bluefish with just about any type of lure, on any type of line—only to find at 10AM that no matter what you do you just can't catch one of those crazy blues? How often have you felt that when this phenomena occurs that the blues have "moved out" to another spot—a secret spot—and that they just won't bite because their stomachs are filled and feeding time is over?

I have experienced the above phenomena on many occasions at such places as Misery Shoals off Mt. Sinai and Port Jefferson and in the Atlantic Ocean off Patchogue's Outer Banks, Fire Island, Gilgo and Montauk. I will tell you one fact at the outset: the fish have not moved out and away at all. They are hugging the bottom and, for the most part, are staying away from being chopped up by the many propellers whirling around on the surface. For example, fish Port Jefferson on a nice August morning around 5AM—hardly more than a half-dozen boats in the area. Some guys are jigging, some trolling shallow, others casting and a couple of anglers dragging wire with umbrella rigs attached. Everyone is catching fish: bluefish. Everyone is filling up their fish boxes and Igloo Coolers—how can you miss? If you don't catch blues it is probably because you are not fishing or using terminal tackle with hooks.

Nine to ten in the morning—wow! Where did all the boats come from? While you are dodging the fishing armada, an outstanding fact appears before your bluefish-oriented mind: "Where did the bluefish go? Boy, oh boy. The fishing is beginning to stink." There are now longer and longer intervals between your catches until there are no fish caught. It appears as if someone has rung a bell and the bluefish have disappeared. What has happened? It is simple. You have reached the "midmorning blues period." What do you do? It is obvious that previous fishing tactics are not producing. Do you pack it in and go home? Many do. However, the day is too young and hot to return home and cut your lawn. You are in a quandary.

What You Are Going To Do: The Method:

Try the following. It might not be as exciting as casting or jigging for bluefish nor as sporty, but I will guarantee that the following procedure will give you a steady pick and put bluefish on your dinner table. The method involves wire line and a pound of lead. If you don't like wire and lead—read no further. If you insist on grinding your reel meaninglessly for the remainder of the day via casting and jigging—that is your prerogative; but you are not likely to put a fish on the table during this "midmorning blues period."

Where do the bluefish go during the "midmorning blues period?" They do not swim away. They are grubbing on the bottom in deep water. They are cooling it; they are hanging out. Once in awhile, a bluefish will chase a sand eel to the surface and chomp it in half, only to return to the bottom without striking any lure en route to the surface or to the bottom. You know the bluefish are way down below for there is a glossy sheen and slick on the surface. The blues are feeding on the bottom and there are enough chopped bits of fish floating to the surface to attract gulls and terns to the area. Remember: you do not need a lot of birds around when the bluefish are doing their thing on the bottom.

In a nutshell—what are you going to do to incite bluefish to bite? You are going to place your bait down on the bottom right in front of Billy Bluefish's nose. You are going to tap the bottom with your one pound cannon ball sinker to which is attached, by way of two leaders, any of the following: bright and shiny spoons, feathers, surgical tubes, plugs or bucktails. These lures will be attached to leaders above the lead-ball sinker and at a very slow trol will be bumped and tapped along the bottom causing sounds and puffs of sands to be created. These sounds and puffs arouse the curiosity of your finny friends. Bluefish investigate these sounds and puffs at about the same time the bait or lures arrive. Even if bluefish are not in a feeding mood, they cannot resist taking a swipe at what is passing by. If they do not strike at the first bait, there is always the second bait on the end of a long leader which almost always causes them to swipe at it. Bluefish have no patience with lures dragged in front of their noses. They become exasperated and will strike—similar to a junk yard dog. I have never heard of one eating a trespasser, but I have never known one to turn down a good bite. This is what you are interested in achieving. All you want from Billy the Bluefish is one good bite now and then. The now-and-then bites by the blues will produce a nice steady pick and place fish on your dinner table.

You will be employing bottom trolling at a very slow speed with your one pound, cannon ball sinker undergoing a bumpity, bump action on the bottom causing noises and puffs of sand to lift up. You will be using either 30 lb. or 40 lb. test stainless or monel wire line. For blues in the 3 to 8 lb. class 30 lb. wire is satisfactory. For large blues in the 8 lb. to 20 lb. class 40 lb. wire is preferred. I prefer monel wire. The rod I employ is a 40 lb. trolling rod with roller guides. Reels employed are Penn 3/0s for 30 lb. wire and Penn 4/0s for the 40 lb. wire. Approximately 350 feet of 30 lb. wire is placed on a Penn 3/0 and 550 ft. of 40 lb. wire is placed on a Penn 4/0 (113H Model). At the end of a day's fishing I cut approximately 10 ft. of wire off terminal end. All wire is attached directly to the arbor or spool. At the end of the year, I wind all wire off and reverse it which now places newer wire on top of the reel spool. Wire does undergo stretch fatigue. If I get two seasons out of my wire it has served me well. Forty pound wire is preferred over that of 30 lb. wire for the simple reason that 12 lb. to 19 lb. bluefish can raise havoc with the lighter material. Since you will occasionally tie up your sinker with the bottom at a slow troll the heavier wire can take more abuse and will allow for many extrications without wire loss or break.

The terminal tackle for this tapping and bumping the bottom trolling procedure consists of an eight foot dropper made from #10 steel leader wire with a three way swivel bent on one end and a snap swivel on the

other end. The three way swivel attaches to the snap swivel on the end of the line and the snap swivel on the other end of the dropper snaps to the cannon ball type sinker.

My basic rig consists of two shiny spoons (Hopkins Hammerheads or Tony Acetta) for the simple reason that they are shiny and really entice bluefish to strike at very slow speeds. Spoons appear to drive big bluefish "crazy" and small blues "nuts." One spoon is tied to a 12 ft. leader, the other spoon is tied to a 20 ft. leader. Fifty pound test snap swivels can be tied to the other ends of each of the two leaders. The shorter leader attaches to the snap swivel on the bottom of the dropper that also holds the big cannon ball sinker. The longer leader attaches to the three way swivel at the top of the dropper. All leader material is made up of 60 lb. test monofilament for fishing big bluefish. For smaller bluefish 30 lb. monofilament leaders worked satisfactorily.

Long leaders are used since they appear to catch more fish. Short leaders cause bluefish to pop to the surface when reeling them in. If a bluefish comes to the surface on a short leader he can shake his head violently and unhook himself. Fish hooked on the upper leader will keep the sinker down. Heavy leader material also makes it easier to handle the fish when they are snubbed up against the boat for boarding.

Although spoons are my favorite lures for deep bottom bumping and scraping the bottom, I do employ other types of lures which provide a steady pick and add to variety of the basic technique. Surgical tubes, Psychosquids, rigged eels, Bang O Lures, bucktails, feathers as well as thin belly fillets taken from bonito, herring, and fluke may be substituted for spoons.

The Bottom Bumping Trolling Procedure

In bottom bumping it is imperative that you troll at a very slow speed. If you troll too fast you won't be able to hold the bottom with your big sinker and your lures will be too high up. Spoons are ideally suited for very slow speeding speeds. They have some action and flash nicely at low speeds. Ideal speed is obtained when the angler can hold his pole at a 45 degree angle above the horizontal where he can feel the leader sinker tapping the bottom. This bottom bumping trolling is in actuality scrubbing the lead of the big sinker. This method demands constant line tending. When you make turns you lower the rod tip which maintains the constant tap-tap method. In using this method it is not wise to place rods in sockets. Every so often until you know what the bottom is like you will undoubtedly hang up your sinker on the bottom which will necessitate backing down for retrieving. Rods must be held in your hands. This will eliminate tangling of spoons on the bottom.

On a small boat such as that of my 13' Whaler, I employ no more than two rods and they are held in hand by the anglers. When employing two rods for bottom tapping one rod is rigged with a single bait and the other with two baits. The anglers must cooperate with each other and not dropback through another line. The person running the boat has to get the speed right. On a larger boat two rods with two lines should be rigged wtih one bait and two rods rigged with two baits. When the double rigs are down and you are tapping the bottom heavier weighted lines should go down. On one tack, if employing twin engines the skipper might have to knock one engine out of gear. On another tack he may have to run both and even kick them up a bait. Current, tide and wind will dictate the proper speed of engines.

Even with a single engine on a leeward tack you might not be able to slow down enough without kicking the engine out of gear every now and then. **You must not take sharp turns when** employing this bottom bouncing technique.

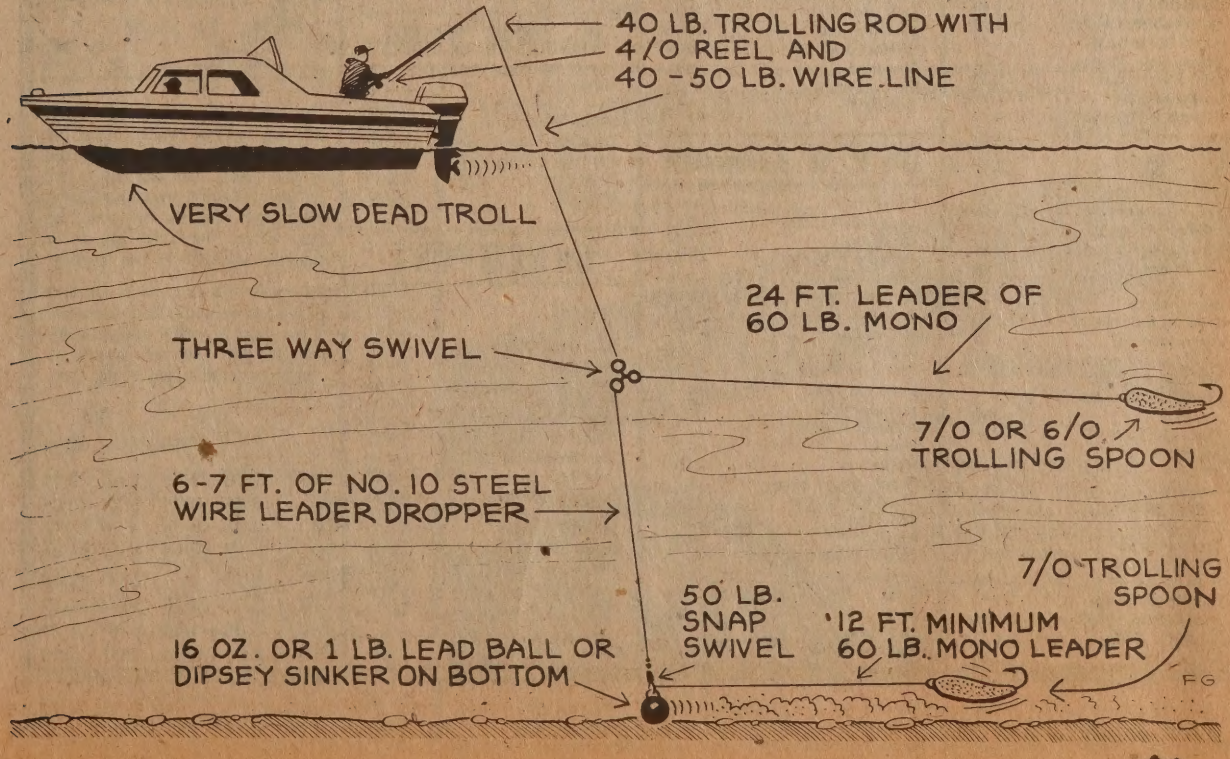
When you see a glossy slick and know the bluefish are there, it is wise to troll your baits on the windward edge of the slick. Work the edges and sloughs and always give the tide rips a good slow trolling over. Don't forget trolling the edges of deep dropoffs. When a fish is hooked an easy circle will usually help the angler keep clear of the other lines.

Two Unique Situations Occurring with Bluefish

There are two situations which present a dilemma to the bluefishermen and is an intricate part of the "midmorning blues" problem.

One involves the day when you can see big blues lying on the surface or just below the surface. It is a slick calm day. You have towed all kinds of lures through the area to no avail. You have also drifted down on these critters and casted so much that your arms are aching. When this occurs get out the wire and make up

(Continued on page 11.)



HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEW-PORT AM	NEW-PORT PM	DATE
THUR.	5:45	6:15	6:35	7:00	6:30	6:50	7:25	7:40	9:20	9:20	9:15	9:30	5:45	6:10	7/24
FRI.	6:35	7:05	7:25	7:45	7:20	7:35	8:15	8:25	10:05	10:05	10:00	10:15	6:35	6:55	7/25
SAT.	7:25	7:50	8:10	8:35	8:10	8:20	9:00	9:10	10:50	10:50	10:50	11:05	7:20	7:40	7/26
SUN.	8:10	8:30	8:55	9:15	8:50	9:05	9:40	9:55	11:30	11:40	11:35	11:50	8:10	8:30	7/27
MON.	9:00	9:15	9:40	10:00	9:35	9:50	10:25	10:40	–	12:15	–	12:20	8:55	9:15	7/28
TUE.	9:45	10:05	10:30	10:50	10:25	10:40	11:15	11:30	12:30	1:00	12:35	1:10	9:40	10:05	7/29
WED.	10:35	10:55	11:15	11:35	11:20	11:35	–	12:05	1:15	1:50	1:25	1:55	10:30	10:50	7/30
THUR.	11:30	11:50	–	12:10	–	12:15	12:25	1:00	2:05	2:40	2:15	2:45	11:20	11:45	7/31

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

7/25	5:46	8:26
7/26	5:47	8:25
7/27	5:48	8:24
7/28	5:49	8:23
7/29	5:50	8:22
7/30	5:51	8:21
7/31	5:52	8:20

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
7/12	7/20	7/27	7/5

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM **Major**	PM Minor	PM **Major**
Thurs.	2:10	**8:45**	2:40	**9:10**
Fri.	2:55	**9:35**	3:25	**10:05**
Sat.	3:45	**10:25**	4:20	**10:55**
Sun.	4:35	**11:20**	5:10	**11:45**
Mon.	5:30	**—**	6:00	**12:20**
Tues.	6:30	**12:45**	7:00	**1:20**
Wed.	7:35	**1:50**	8:00	**2:20**
Thurs.	8:35	**2:50**	9:00	**3:15**

The Flatfisherman's Paradise!

MORICHES BAY

by Jim DeVita
of Skidmore's Fishing Station

If you are not familiar with this quiet, peaceful bay on the south shore of Long Island, let me tell you that it is truly a flatfisherman's Paradise. You have plent, of soft bottom to accommodate the spring and fall run of flounder. There are countless numbers of bass, holes, dropoffs and tide rips which are favorite haunts of the summer residents, the fluke. Each fishing trip in Moriches Bay is an eye-opener to new spots to fish. This article will concern itself with the season upon us and fluke fishing.

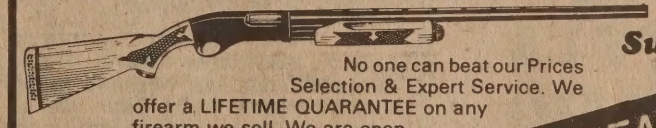
There are many ways to fish for fluke in this bay and anyone fishing here should be prepared to fish in more than one way. Most days the old standby of just drifting between and across the numerous bars will do the trick. But as always, there will be the exception to the rule when we must reach into our bag of tricks to out-maneuver these tricky fish. At this time, I will bore you old-time fishermen with some basic tips that must be a part of each article if it is to be complete. The proper way to start a drift for fluke is to get your boat in a position so it will either drift right along the edge of a sand bar or dropoff. Or simply start your drift up on the edge of the bar and drift so your boat slides off the bar and down into the deeper water.

You must realize that fluke like to lie on the side of a bar when the tide is running so they can catch any baitfish that might be swept across the bar. To fish effectively, your bait must resemble these baitfish. The various fishing stations and tackle shops in the area can furnish you with up-to-date info as to what the fish have been feeding on. There are days when the fish will be lying in the deeper water rather than on the edge of the bars, but it will take a better man than myself to explain why this is. On such days, drifting the edge of the channels where the water is deeper will produce more fish.

Another way to fish this bay is to anchor the boat. To do it right, you must anchor in the same places that you would normally drift and fish with about half the weight that you would use had you been drifting. The object is to cast your baited rig up on the bar and let the tide carry it along the bottom and off the edge of the bar. This seems to give your bait a more natural appearance as it is drifting at about the same speed as any baitfish in the area. I prefer to use a fishfinder rig with live bait when fishing like this. The fishfinder lets the hook float free so the live bait swims along with the tide. Another thing to try while anchored under the same conditions is to use artificials. My favorite is a bucktail with a strip of squid. I cast this up on the bar and jig it along the bottom making it bounce as it slides over the bar. It appears as a wounded baitfish and drives the fluke nuts even when they are not feeding readily.

My final rig is one that can be used either drifting or anchored as it has produced for me when all else failed. It is especially effective in Moriches because the bay is shallow. This rig incorporates a thirty-six inch leadered fluke hook of your choice, a small split-shot such as you would use for bluefish, and a medium to large float. Tie the leader of your hook directly to your line or use a small swivel. About twelve inches above the hook crimp on the split-shot. To place the float properly you must estimate the depth of water you are in. Let's say it is five feet. Now put the float on your line so the baited hook is about six to eight inches off the bottom. The split shot will keep it from trailing too far up and the float holds it at the desired depth. Casting is not necessary, but you may have to fish the opposite side of the boat when drifting as the rig may drift faster than the boat. By using this rig, you do away with most weed problems; the crabs can't reach the bait, and most snags you just float over. However, fluke are aggressive feeders, and have no qualms about coming off the bottom to grab your bait. This rig also lets you fish with much lighter tackle than normal because you don't need two or three ounces of lead to hold bottom. It takes a little time to get used to so don't get frustrated; give it time and the end result will be fluke in the pan.

One final tip: try using a buoy when fluke fishing. Take an old plastic jug from bleach or milk and tie about twenty feet of heavy mono line on it. At the end of the line put two heavy sinkers—eight to ten ounces. When drifting along and you get a hit (whether you hook the fish or not), get the buoy over as soon as you can. Then keep drifting past the buoy to see if a pocket of fish is lying there. Make two or three drifts around the buoy to feel the area out. If no other fish respond, retrieve the buoy and keep it handy until the next hit is received. I hope this article improves your fishing and I hope to see you out on Moriches Bay—the flatfisherman's Paradise!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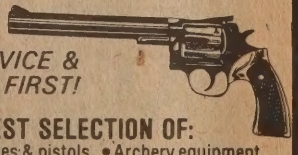
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MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

Capt. Gary of the charter boat **Barracuda** called to tell of good fishing both inshore and offshore this week. Saturday's party loaded up on big weaks and blues. Sunday's group had 207 lb. mako plus another mako on that gained his freedom. Gary says there are also some white marlin offshore now. Gary has a few weekdays open. See ad for details.

Capt. Ron of the charter boat **Julie III** and party lead by Dennis Lyons on Saturday's trip and Gus Delgotto's group on Sunday fished Great Eastern for over 600 big porgies up to 3½ lbs. plus 6 weakfish, 3 blues and 3 flounders.

Capt. Jack of the charter boat **Windy** called to say that fishing has been excellent all this past week and weekend. At the beginning of the week his people loaded up on porgies just east of Great Eastern. These were jumbos and hit on both tides. Towards the end of the week they broke out the diamond jigs for weaks and blues fishing east of Outer Shagwong. Sunday it was back to porgies for Joe Sang and crew from Manhattan and they boated 300 lbs. of these dinner plates.

Capt. Joe McBride of the charter boat **My Mate** reported good inshore fishing north of the Point for weaks and blues on umbrellas and diamond jigs. On Saturday outside weaks and blues were caught at the Triangle.

Capt Bud Dorman of the **Viking**

Alex Baranosky heading a charter from Flying Tiger Airlines bagged a 207 lb. mako aboard Captain Gary Kiefer's "Barracuda."

Jerry Carbo hefts an 8 lb. fluke which he took in the north rips aboard the boat JD out of Gone Fishing Marina.

Skipper II said that he was fishing Gardiner's Island Tuesday through Friday and the anglers aboard filled many buckets with fish. The average high hook per day was better than 50 porgies ranging from a half to 1¼ lbs. On Saturday Joe Westbrook was high hook with 40 fish. Capt. Bud says that everybody catches something.

Henry Colombi of the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that the offshore action is really picking up and it looks like one of the best bluewater fishing years that we've seen in a long time. On the weekend Mike Carlson caught a 343 lb. broadbill swordfish on rod and reel while aboard the private boat "Reel Nuts", Captained by Stephen Babbitz. Howie Rubin on the "Cutlet" nailed a white marlin of 60 lbs. and a 50 lb. yellowfin tuna. Mark Whittaker brought in the best white marlin of the weekend, a 68 pounder. The "Pisces" took a mako shark of 185 lbs., and the "Lady Laurie" trolled up a yellowfin tuna of 50 lbs. Henry said that the first giant tuna of the year came into Montauk on Sunday, a 306 pounder taken off Block Island and weighed in at **Tuma's Tackle**.

The First Annual Montauk Captain's Association Charity Shark Tournament held last weekend out of the **Star Island Yacht Club** was a resounding success, according to MCA President Bob Bozek, Henry Colombi and virtually everyone else that was involved int he tournament. The maximum 100 boats entered and sailed, and the results of the 2 day tourney were: First Place, a 377 lb. dusky shark caught by John Henshaw on the private boat "Gotcha" out of Conneticut, which was good for $3000 in prize money. Second Place money of $2000 was taken by Chris Ryan on the boat "Wake Out" with a 295 blue shark. A 242 lb. thresher shark caught by Alex Fusco of Larchmont on the boat "Yesterday II" and won him $1000. An additional $6000 was donated equally to the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society. More than $4000 of additional prizes were awarded by lottery to the participants. Other highlights of the tourney were an 80 lb. white marlin taken on the charter boat **Adios** and a mako shark of 487 lbs. that was disqualified after the anglers volunteered the information that they were forced to harpoon it when the leader seperated. The one sad incident of the tournament was that the potentially winning shark that was caught on the charter boat "Free Spirit" was disqualified for entering the jetties 3 minutes after the deadline on Saturday, costing the anglers a $1000 a minute. (A feature article on this tournament will appear in the future in The Fisherman.)

Capt. Frank of the charter boat **Free Spirit** said the offshore fishing continues to be good. Frank had good action with 2 makos and loads of blue shark. The weekend was slow with little drift and a lot of offshore boat traffic. Frank expects the tuna in shortly and has some choice open dates.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** says the Cox's Ledge codfishing is remaining good. On Saturday the $636 pool went to Joe Parigene of College Point with a 51 lb. cod. In the fluke department, Brooklyn angler Joe Guidice took the pool with a 10 lb. 1 oz. fluke on the Sunday morning trip and the skipper says in general the fluking has been very good. High hook on porgies on Sunday was a regular named Felix with 28 nice size porgies. Best has been in the early morning before dozens of boats are plying the area. Catches were solid during the week and fell off a bit on the weekend. Fantastic is the only way to describe the night bluefishing

Twenty-eight weaks and a pile of mackerel and porgies for Frank McGuire and his son Paul. Fish were taken on Ava jigs aboard the charter boat "Vivienne."

John O'Connor of the Tatler Pub in Montauk displays a 29 lb. striper which he caught recently aboard the charter boat "Adios."

said Paul. The boat is working south of Block Island and all fish are from the high teens to 23 pounders. These fish are huge and there are loads of them. The bluefishing can only be classified as dynamite said the skipper.

Capt. Phil Lewis of the charter boat **Adios** called to say that his inshore charters for weaks and blues has been excellent on trips made this past week. Wednesday's afternoon charter for Hank O'Connor loaded up with weaks and blues and to top it off, they also had a 29 lb. striper. Bob Gonzales of Purolator Co. had over 100 fish for that group on Saturday. Offshore fishing has fallen off. Blue shark have not been as plentiful this past week. Giant tuna have been spotted and the first one was brought in by a local charter boat, the fish hitting 306 lbs. Fishing has been on trolled umbrellas and on jigs.

John DeBona and Jim King with eight fluke to 3 lbs. taken on sand eels and squid combos in the New Cut. Photo courtesy of Highway Fishing Station.

SOUTH FORK

★ BEST BET ★

WEAKS

SHINNECOCK

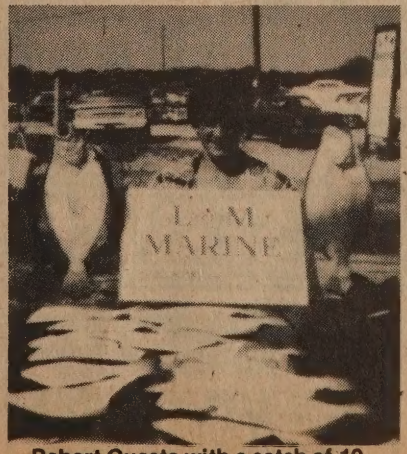
Thom at **Speck's Bait and Tackle** said that snappers are now in good supply in both Peconic and Shinnecock Bays. Snapper blues in the 1 lb. range being taken on tin off of Sebonac during outgoing water. Decent fluke fishing in Shinnecock's east and west channels on sand eel and squid combos. The fish run from shorts up to 5 lbs. Buoys 23 and 26 continue to produce some blues and weaks in Peconic Bay on squid strips and high hook rigs.

Hank of **Altenkirch Bait and Tackle** said that mako sharks continue to be the hot item offshore. This past weekend witnessed Billy Stein whipping a 325 lber. The boat Four Zs returned with a 389 lb. mako, while the Lollypop had a 368 lber. Pete Hunt fished the edge of the Dumping Grounds to put away a 100 lb. white marlin. Plenty of 3-5 lb. blues outside the inlet for umbrella rig trollers.

The **Capt. Clark II** tells of good porgy action on the Peconic Bay wrecks, with porgies ranging from ¾ to 1½ lbs. The summer run of weaks continue to improve with catches of 15 to 20 weaks a day. A few kingfish have started to show and the kings and weaks should increase in numbers as the water warms.

HAMPTON BAYS

From **Coor's Mariners Cove**, Mickey told us of lots of porgies at Robin's Island. One boat returned with 200 fish in the 1-2 lb. class which they took on squid, clams and sand



Robert Guasto with a catch of 19 fluke made on killies at buoy 43 out of L&M Marine.

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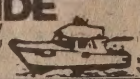

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Ann and Vincent DellaRocca with a 5½ lb. fluke taken at buoy 41 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lily Fishing Station.

worms. Mickey called the fluke fishing decent with plenty of shorts still mixed in. Blues outside the inlet on umbrella rigs. Small snappers and nice sized crabs in the canal.

Jeff at **Westhampton Marine** reported that the crew from the German deli in Westhampton Beach consisting of Mike Scott, Chip Reisig and two visitors from Germany, Marcus Wagner and Arno Schaffer fished aboard the Nino and trolled over 40 blues in the 8-12 lb. class outside of Moriches Inlet on umbrella rigs. Jim Cassel and his son Bill took 34 keeper fluke in Moriches Bay on squid and sand eel combos Saturday.

MORICHES BAY

Bill at **East Moriches Bait and Tackle** said that fluke fishing has improved in recent days. Donna Kijowski fished buoys 38 and 39 on Sunday and on the last two hours of incoming boated 15 nice keepers on sand eels and squid. Good fluking also at buoys 43 and 44. Flounder still there for the taking at buoys 38, 39 and 29 on worms. Good body of blues in 100' of water south and southwest of the inlet on jigs and umbrella rigs. Among the makos taken over the weekend was a 150 lber. taken in 160' of water by Mike Flynn and Craig Watson. Harvey Kolin boated a huge blue shark which checked in at 295 lbs. aboard the boat Hot Stuff on Sunday. This shark was chummed in 165' of water south of Moriches.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that the fluke catches are on the rise. Good catches have been east of buoy

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These 96 flounder were taken at buoy 41 on bloodworms by Al Barbieri, Ed Chester and Jim Johnson. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

42 on the south side of the hole, 12 to 20 keepers per skiff. The number of shorts has decreased. Sand eels and squid or killies and squid are both working on any moving water, trolling on the slack. There's been an invasion of bay blues and weaks, the blues going to a pound and the weaks in the 4 to 5 lb. range. This has been on squid strips or strip bait fished about a foot and a half off the bottom. They are also being taken on small tins. This is any where between buoys 42 and 43 and also between 39 and 41 on incoming. Float rigs are producing there. Hank Schlanger took 15 fluke to 3¾ lbs. and weakfish to 4½ lbs. plus some bay blues on Saturday at the hole NE of buoy 42.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

MASTIC BEACH

Stiriz's Fishing Station tells of fluke from buoy 17 to 25 on squid and sand eels on both running tides. Blowfish, trigger fish and sea bass at buoy 19 on clam and squid. Blues at buoy 23. Crabs from buoy 17 to 12 on rings and in traps.

SAYVILLE

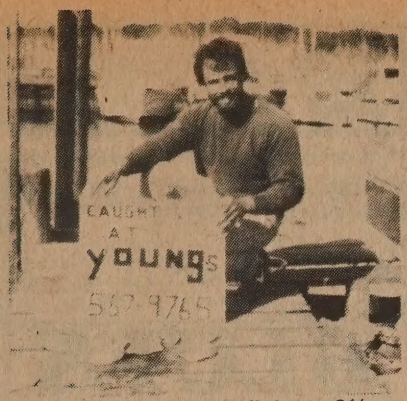
Bob Lee at **Young's Fishing Station** reported 3-4 lb. weaks out in front of the station, along with blues in the 2-3 lb. class. Good fluke fishing at buoys 13 and 13A on killies, spearing, sand eels and squid. Bob recommended slow trolling the edges of the bars when wind and tide conditions do not permit a satisfactory drift. Snappers plentiful and getting bigger every day and decent crabbing in all the local creeks. On Sunday, Jose Gardeazabaz and his son returned with 6 weakfish taken on squid strips on the north side of the Bay.

WEST SAYVILLE

From the **South Bay Fishing Station** Jim reported good action with weakfish in the 3-5 lb. class from buoy 29 east to Browns River, about one mile off the beach. Squid and jellyworm and squid combos have been taking the weaks along with small choppers that have been mixed with the yellowfins. Pretty good fluking at Ocean Beach and also off of Browns River in 8-10 feet of water on sand eels and squid. Crabbing improves daily and small snappers in good supply at the West Avenue dock. Charlie Hofer of West Babylon had a fine catch on Sunday. Fishing between Bayport and Browns River, Charlie totalled 12 weakfish, 8 bluefish, 3 fluke and a couple of blowfish. Jellyworms and squid took the weaks and blues, while the fluke fell to sand eel baits.

OAKDALE

John at **J&R Sports Center** reported another fine brown trout taken out of the Conetquot River. Chris Woodruff of East Islip checked in a 4.4 lb. fish on Saturday. Back to the salt chuck, John had some big offshore news to report with the catch of a 357 lb. swordfish made aboard Steve Golder's Oakdale Sportsmen Club boat The Obsession. Fellow club member Rick Buchman was on the rod when



Joe Robson with 10 fluke to 3½ lbs. taken near Sailor's Haven on squid and sand eels. Photo courtesy of Young's Fishing Station.

the big broadbill took a rigged squid being fished in the Canyon. John knew of small blues and weaks in the 2-4 lb. class being taken in the Bay. Also plenty of nice sized blueclaw crabs being taken from local docks and creeks.

BAY SHORE

Carl at **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** told of a nice catch of fluke for John Peters and friends of Brightwaters. The group had 15 keepers up to 4½ lbs. on sand eel and squid combos drifting near the lighthouse. Gary and Nancy Shandosky had 5 fluke and 2 weaks aboard Tom Woodruff's Stingray. Some fine action with weakfish up to 12 lbs. in Fire Island Inlet Saturday evening and Sunday AM. The fish were up on top and taken on umbrella rigs, jigs and also by casters using tin and jelly worms. Blues continue to be chummed in Steamboat Channel and also trolled on red and white umbrella rigs near the WR buoy. Crabbing is now worthwhile according to Carl and snappers getting a little bigger each day. For the offshore set, Carl spoke of loads of blues south of Patchogue on jigs and bait and knew that a few white marlin were spotted in 140' of water southeast of the inlet.

The **Casey Lee** reports fluking excellent all week but slow for the weekend due to a combination of fog, weed, wind and boat traffic. Best catches have been made on killies and spearing along with sand eels all joined up with squid. West Channel has been the best spot and keepers are all around 16 inches.

Capt. Fred of the charter boat **Sea Mist** called to say that Andy Cavadias of Denny Drew Motors and party boated and released 3 brown shark and also had a load of bluefish which they took back home on Friday. The boat will be running special women's half-day charters for bluefish, something novel in this area. See ad for phone number if interested.

Doctor Bohner of the Bay Shore Tuna Club won the second tournament in as many weeks. Last week the South Shore and this week the Amity Harbor chopper round-up. He also won first and second prize for largest fish which was 13 lbs. 2 oz.

Bill Von Hagel called to report a nerve-wracking experience aboard the private boat Gulf Stream this past weekend. Along with Bill, Dave and Chris Clark and Pete Quinn, they hooked a mako shark in 170' of water southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Two-and-a-half jumps and 30 seconds after the hook-up, this high flying mako landed in the cockpit amidst a frenzied crew which beat a hasty retreat to the nearby flybridge. After relinquishing the cockpit to a very green shark, the crew finally managed to get a gaff into the head and a tail rope on which enabled them to control the fish and get things back to normal. The fish eventually weighed in at 127 lbs.

CAPTREE

Bobby at the **Captree Bait Station** told of a 5.9 lb. fluke for Tom Vanschaick on Saturday. The flatfish was taken aboard the charter boat Anna M. Bobby knew that the bluefish boats continued to do a real job off of Patchogue and he called the fluking in the bay and inlet okay. Ten-year-old Patrick Judge showed up on Sunday with a stingray which he took off of the Robert Moses pier. The fish bottomed out the shop scale and was estimated to be in the 80 lb. class.

Captain Rod Westerlind of the open boat **Captain Rod** said that the warm weather has sent most of the fluke into deeper water for the time being. Most of the action is now concentrated from the lighthouse to the bridge. A good body of the summer flatfish have been providing fair action on sand eels, killie and spearing. Sizes range from shorts up to 5 or 6 lbs.

Captain Charlie Kennedy has been running his **Capt. Bob Joseph** south of Patchogue and has been doing a big job on the resident bluefish population. Very good action both day and night with jigs taking the choppers in the daytime and bait doing the work at night. Fish range anywhere from 6-12 lbs.

Capt. Ron Peters of the charter boat **Yankee III** tells us that Saturday's offshore wreck trip for the Atlantis Anglers saw high hook of 12 cod for one lucky member. There were a lot of 30 lb. cod caught and a 30 lb. class pollack was also nabbed. Twenty five men had over 50 fish on that trip, and a lot of towns were involved. Sunday's charter had fabulous jig fishing on bluefish just 8 miles off Patchogue Beach with green banana splits working best. These were 6 to 10 lb. fish. Ron says there are loads of big sand eels out there and that he was marking 50' thicknesses of them.

The entire Captree bluefishing fleet on both day and night trips is enjoying a leap job on medium to jumbo

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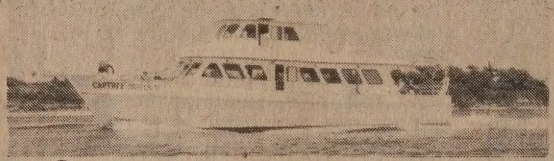

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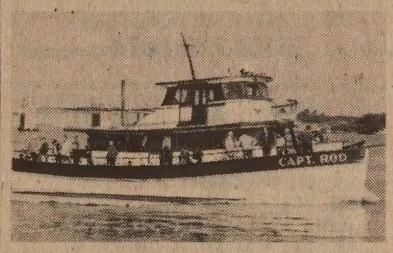

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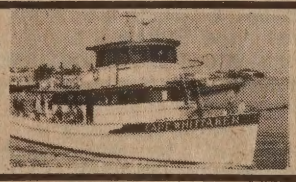

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bluefish fishing mostly the inner Patchogue grounds. It's jig fishing during the day and bait and chum at night. The fishing on virtually all trips is dynamic. A lot of captains were unavailable for the weekly report due to the heavy sailing schedules involved.

Charter boat **Capt. Eddie B II** has asked us to announces his apologizes for any inconvenience caused to those had chartered the boat this upcoming week. The accident that occured last Thursday with the clam boat striking the **Eddie B II** in the stern has resulted in the **Eddie B II** being in the shipyard all this past week and it is expected to be sailing again by this weekend.

Capt. Sam of the charter boat **Eleanor** called to report that his vessel was entered in Saturday's Amity Harbor Fishing Club Chopper Round-up and that his boat took first prize for the category of total weight of the 10 largest bluefish caught for the day. Five anglers on board decked 85 bluefish. This was a 3 inlet tournament and all boats fished in the fog all day. Fish were taken mostly on banana splits. Fishing on the boat were the skipper, Don Marcote, Jimmy Cox, Karen Triola and Dom Buanano. On Sunday a regular 6 man charter boated 118 blues fishing the Patchogue area on bananas and diamond jigs.

Capt Dennis Frederick of the charter boat **Flying Dutchman** fished Patchogue Saturday for Bill Meskin and party and reports a slaughter on bluefish, fish averging 10 lbs. and going up to 14 lbs. on diamond jigs. Sunday's fluking was fair for Kevin Bryne and party. They picked fluke on both tides in local channels in the morning and the Kismuit Sluice in the afternoon. Lots of short fish but enough keepers to make it interesting. The pool fish ran 2½ lbs. and sand eels, spearing and squid did the job.

Charter boat **Lady Ann** reports that their fluke charters for the week were in the range of 75 to 100 keepers per trip working from the bridge east to Point O Woods. Bluefish charters for the week ranged from good to fantastic working off Patchogue Beach with jigs during the day and bait at night. Fish have been running from 6 to 10 lbs.

Capt Dan of the **Capt. Joseph Fleet** reports that the fluking has been good all week and very good on Saturday fishing from Point O Woods down to the Captree Bridge with sand eels and squid. The night trips for blues all week have been good off Patchogue Beach.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree Queen II** reports that the fluking has picked up persceptably this week and that the fish are now in the channels and deeper water at West Island, at the Lighthouse and around the bridge and that they are moving off the flats. The night bluefishing aboard the **Queen** was excellent during the week with catches of from 300 to 400 fish a night. The night trips on the weekend were a little erratic and catches were 150 to 200 fish a night. Action was all off the Patchogue beaches on both bait and jigs.

BABYLON

From **Augie's Bait and Tackle**, Ronnie said that bluefishing continues very good on the Patchogue grounds for jiggers, trollers and chummers. On Friday and Saturday, some tuna were spotted inshore as close as 90' of water, while a handful of marlin were seen on the surface along the 120' line 120° out of Fire Island Inlet. Both trollers and jiggers have been taking weakfish in the vicinity of the pound nets. White Tri-Fin Whiptails fished deep in the swirling currents off of the Sore Thumb have been accounting for some fine weakfish scores. Diane Turrazzi checked in the biggest fluke of the week. The fish weighed in a 4 lbs. 10 oz. That big stingray discussed in the Captree report was gaffed by Ralph of Augie's who happened to be tied up at the dock during the course of the battle. As previously mentioned, the 85 lber. was taken from the Robert Moses Inlet Pier.

Capt. Ron of the charter boat **Seabird** reports that Monday's trip for Michael Stapleton and group from the NYC tactical Patrol Force had excellent fluking in the State Channel and at the Bay Shore flats. There were many 3 pounders and 15 men had over 100 keepers. John Guacci took the pool. On Thursday's charter for Vince Ryan and party had fluke fishing West Islip and the Brightwaters Flats with Ed Saunders taking the pool. Friday's charter for Louis Gilmore and party trolled and jigged blues and a slaugher was had fishing

off the Patchogue beaches. Saturday's trip for Steve Serabranick and party enjoyed excellent fluking in local flats and drains with sand eels, killies and squid.

SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLUKE

LINDENHURST

Joe Ferrari of the Surfside 3 Tuna Club phoned in results of their annual Senior Citizens Day Fishing Tournament. There were 58 members from the Rainbow Senior Citizens Group fishing aboard the club's boat. First place went to Mike Stallone with a 2 lb. 7 oz. fluke. Second place went to Angelo Matassa with a 1 lb. 10 oz. fluke. Third place went to Adele Damian with a 1 lb. 6 oz. fluke. Trophy prizes were awarded.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser's Tackle Shop reported that fluke have slowed somewhat due to the hot weather, but decent catches are still the rule. Best fishing appears to be at the top of the ebb at Goose Creek, West Island and Four Corners. Flounder fishing still holding up with some nice catches of flatties to 2 lbs. made this past week near the entrance to Zachs Bay and in Swift Creek. Both worms and red-dyed clams have been effective. Weakfish in the 3-6 lb. range have been gobbling sand worms at the bridges and at Unqua Point on night tides. Taylor blues also showed up near the bridges this past week. Fish were in the 1-2 lb. class. Good bluefishing offshore with most of the local boats fishing south of Cholera. Some make the run east to the Patchogue grounds.

Sal at **Custom Tackle** called to say that Babylon angler Paul Greco managed 48 large weaks up to 14 lbs. on diamond jigs fishing at the Tin Can Friday evening. Joe Frye of Massapequa had 12 big blues trolling umbrellas with white tubes at the 1st buoy outside Fire Island Inlet on Sunday. Fluke have been taken at the Jone's Inlet Construction dock on incoming tide on bucktail with a dart dropper. A Babylon clammer has been doing a big job in his home waters on weakfish on pink and yellow artificial shrimp and tails.

Pop's Fishing Station reports fluking very good this past week and weekend, better than last year at this time. Even though a lot of throwbacks were present, there was still plenty of keepers. Gerard Fischetti and John Ciano of Massapequa and

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Queens were out twice this week taking 16 keepers up to 4 lbs. one day and 14 keepers the next day also up to 4 lbs. They used only killies. Carl Dinkre and Tom and Oscar Quigley had 15 keepers up to 3½ lbs. with a few blackfish as well. The biggest fluke of the week was a 6½ pounder caught by Jeff Baldi of West Babylon. Mike Sciortino of Massapequa managed 6 fish. Blueclaw crabs are starting to show.

BELLMORE

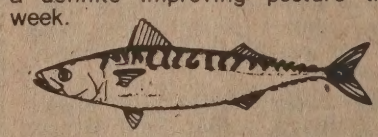
Scott at **Merrick Tackle** informs us that Rocky (Loose wire(Smith fishing the canyon over the weekend hooked and landed a 200 plus lb. bluefin tuna on a Sevenstrand Clone. Rocky said that there was plenty of oceanic life around and lots of tuna action on many boats. The private boat Blue Max had 2 white marlin on Jet type lures. Bluefish are all over the place. Plenty of small snappers around just the right fluke bait size. Blueclaw crabs improving on any piers.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** reports that the boat Bingo got 110 lb. mako. The Mar Jon took a 48 lb. mako fishing 175' of water SE of the Inlet. A 17 and a 22 lb. bass were taken by Bob Smedley and Don Heller fishing local creeks with bunker during the week on morning tides.

BALDWIN

Andy at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells us that Mike Sullivan and crew took an 87 lb. mako in the Al Grover mako owners tournament this weekend. Steve Spatanga and dad bagged 15 blues up to 11½ lbs. at Cholera Sunday. Pete Verity caught 17 keeper fluke in Reynold's Channel at the Point Lookout Bridge on Saturday. The fluke picture has taken a definite improving posture this week.



Forty-seven blues caught on the Freeport "Lady J II" by Jerry Berkman and party in 70' of water south of Jones Inlet.

WEST END SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
BLUES

FREEPORT

Lou of **Lou's Fishing Station** (formerly Charvin Fishing Station(reported very good action with blues and weaks over the weekend just outside of the inlet. Trollers and jiggers both took fish. Blues also in 70' of water south of the pipeline and a tremendous body of fish south of Patchogue providing excellent fishing day and night. The first significant school tuna catch in quite some time was reported by Lou. Tom Crilley aboard his boat The Striper bailed 35 school bluefins up to 28 lbs. fishing 60 miles, 150° from Deb's Inlet. The first bluefin for the Freeport Tuna Club went up on the board over the weekend. The 23 lber. was taken in 150' of water 150° from Jones Inlet. Bob Penn, Greg Scala and Tony Abado aboard Bob's Presto Bob put away makos of 297 lbs. and 94 lbs. along with a 161 lb. hammerhead southeast of Fire Island in 140° of water. Sixteen-year-old Frank Cositore put away a 55 lb. white marlin aboard his dad's charter boat, the **Christy Lee** on Sunday. Lou called the fluking in the area fair with sand eels, squid and killies all producing.

Neil Kalisher, Frank Buckley, Jerry Levine and Paul Barkan aboard Paul's new 23' Mako Missy Kim won the shark category of the Al Grover's Mako Owners Tournament run this

Rocco Bellantoni, Mark Bellantoni and Cosimo Bellantoni with a fine catch of big blues made aboard the Freeport open boat "Starstream II."

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Jack Ryan and Ken Haley with some of the 42 weaks and 38 big blues taken aboard the "Kim" on Jig-N-Tails off Seabright.

past weekend. The crew aboard the Missy Kim put away 6 sharks including the prize winning 150 lb. dusky. The quartet fished in 185' of water, 140° out of Jones and in addition to the fish boated, had a 50 lb. class outfit completely stripped by some unseen adversary. Neal, who reported the crew's success credited the "Chum Pal" which they saw advertised in The Fisherman with making for a neat trouble-free day of sharking.

Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** reports that he's been having tremendous bluefishing on both day and night trips, with fish running from 7 to 12 lbs. all week and weekend long. Mike, Rich and Angel Escobar had 74 big blues between them Saturday. These 3 Bronx residents all agreed that the action was pure dynamite. Richie says the boat is fishing 2 hours and 10 minutes from the dock and that the great weather and the great fishing made a combination that just couldn't be beat. The skipper says the fish are in solid and catches couldn't possibly be better.

The **Capt. Al** reports that fantastic bluefishing, an absolute slaughter has been enjoyed by his fares all week long. Fish are running anywhere from 3 to 9 lbs. with typical fish averaging 4 to 6 lbs. Every trip is seeing any where from 500 to 600 fish bouncing on the deck. Sunday was a slaughter with most everyone dragging 1 to 1½ burlap bags of bluefish off the boat at the end of the day. The night trips are just a little erratic but that should get red hot soon also. Twenty to 25 blues a man is no problem. Al says he is fishing locally around the NB area just 1¼ hours from the dock. This has been the second solid week of excellent bluefishing that his fares have been enjoying. Friday Al says was a massacre also and from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. during one long drift was total mayhem. Al says the closer to home you fish the more fishing time you get. Pat Lindroth, the skipper's wife, had a dozen big bluefish Sunday, making the trip a family affair. She broke in a new rod built for her by Ed Reinish.

Capt. Dan of the charter boat **Nan-Sea** called to say that he fished SE of the HA Sunday taking a 45 lb. dusky and a 60 lb. mako. Another large shark broke off under the boat. This was a charter for Gary Zupan and party of Malverne.

The **Freeport Boatmen's Association** reports that the Atlantic had 410 blues in 2 hrs. worth of jigging Sunday. All the boats in the Association that have been bluefishing this past week have had super catches whether they fished locally or sailed to the SE. Many good catches were made just SE of the Jone's Tower in 60' of water. Most fish have been running 7 to 9 lbs. on trolled umbrellas or diamond jigs or banana splits.

Charter boat **Ivory Queen** reports that Thursday's trip for Al Boccula

and several NYC Fire Dispatchers jigged 30 blues SW of Jone's in 60' of water. Sunday's charter for Tony Cassello of the Getty Gas Station in VAlley Stream, and party, bagged a 50 lb. dusky with Al Cramer on the rod using 12 lb. test line. They also had 35 large blues. High hook was Joanna Casello who out fished the men 2 to 1. These were monster bluefish. Bill says tuna are around and catches should be reported very shortly.

Capt. Jim Barr of the **FBA** charter boat **Capt. II** reports that he fished the Inlet on the weekend and accounted for 20 fluke up to 7½ lbs. for the Chances Are Fishing Club. Jim says he still has several good dates open in September for blues.

Capt. Pat of the **Lady J II** reports that Saturday he jigged 47 blues up to 12 lbs. in 70' of water south of Jones for Jerry Burkman, Nick Ferandez and Larry Olmin. Wednesday's trip for the JFK Fishing Club had one brown shark of 60 lbs. and 6 bluefish up to 14 lbs. fishing 150 degrees in 135' of water out of Jones. This weekend Pat fished the Jerry Burkman again and running to Patchogue jigged 37 blues to 14 lbs. Wednesday's trip for Lon Petracelli of Freeport had 46 blues trolled in 60' of water south of Jone's. Friday's charter for Stan Zawacki and party of NYC trolled 35 blues off Gilgo.

The **Capt. Gary** reports that this weekend's charter for Juliett Lofaro and friends from Farmingdale had good fluking in Reynold's Channel, Swift Creek and Jone's Inlet. High hook and pool winner was Mark Erdrich with a 3¼ lb. fluke. Heavy boat traffic made fishing difficult. The boat has choice weekend dates available in August. See ad for details.

The **Blue Fin Fleet** reports bluefishing has been super all week long. Locally and to the east and SE of Jone's Inlet. Full bags have been the order of the day with both boats having fish up to 12 lbs. Banana splits in green and in white have been big producers. The night trips have been equally good. On Monday Capt. Sy and Capt. Tony both fished the NB area with both boats and had excellent blues up to 8 lbs. on banana splits. Thursday they worked the Gilgo area for the same great fishing on banana splits also. Friday was a repeat for Capts. Sy and Tony again with banana splits. Friday night's trip with Capt. Ed Gyer at the wheel fished to the east and had big blues on smelts, butterfish and chum, on split shot rigs and bottom rigs. Saturday Capt. Tony took the boat to the east and had another jumbo catch of blues. Saturday night's trip with Capts. Charlie and Ed taking the II and III to the east had the blues flying again on bait and chum. Sunday was another leap job and the boats loaded up again. Customers were arm weary. Capt. Sy Karlin says that he has an offshore cod fish trip in the planning stages. Anyone interested should call and reserve a spot. See ad for number.

POINT LOOKOUT

Andy Chisolm of **Scotty's Marina** reported good bluefishing in many sectors of the ocean from Lido east to Patchogue. Sol Mahler fished Fire Island Inlet Friday morning and loaded the box with 87 weakfish and 16 blues, all taken on trolled umbrella rigs. Good fluking in Reynolds Channel and along the rock pile bordering Jones Inlet. Blackfish at the Rota Wreck and T wreck.

Capt Dennis of the **Marie III** reports that Saturday's charter for Tim Mangan and group from US Customs Barracks 201 had over 100 blues jigging and trolling SE of Jone's Tower in 60' of water. Fish ran 6 to 8 lbs. and Arlene Manna bagged a 10 lb. pool fish. Sunday's trip was even better for Joe Canosa and group of 13 from Newburg NY. The upstaters had over 125 blues trolled and jigged in the same area. Seventy percent of the fish were caught very close to the surface of the water. These were 3 to 6 lb. fish. Best colors on the umbrella rigs were purple and black. White banana splits worked best Sunday, as fish have been spitting up squid. Green banana splits worked best Saturday when the fish were spitting up sand eels. Dennis asked us to announce that due to a sudden cancellation he has Saturday, August 9th available.

ISLAND PARK

Bill at **Beckman's Tackle Shop** reported he took a busman's holiday one day last week and with his four children fished Reynold's Channel to the tune of 35 fluke, 13 of which were keepers. Billy's young son Doug showed the way with a 6 lb. doormat which like the rest of the catch was taken on a sand eel-squid combo. On the outside, Bill reported very good bluefishing in 60' of water for umbrella rig trollers and jiggers. Choppers have been ranging anywhere from 6 to 13 lbs. Loads of blue sharks at the 130' mark south of Jones as demonstrated by several boatmen who did a job in the area.

ATLANTIC BEACH

From **Skippy's Tackle Shop** we heard of improved fluke fishing in the area with the greatest improvement being the size of the fish. Weakfish stacked up the Tin Can Grounds, along with some bluefish. Diamond jiggers really doing a job in this area according to Skippy. Locally, crabbing has been good and snappers improving in size.

Capt. Ron Lepper of the charter boat **Kim** called to say that he is slaying the fish. Sunday's charter had 58 weaks from 9 to 13 lbs. by 10:00 a.m. Ron says he is averaging roughly 1000 fish a week all on umbrellas or jigs. He is also bagging blues to 14 lbs., working the NY Bight.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Bait and Tackle** reported decent porgy action at the bridges on worm bait. Snappers now in good supply, small but plentiful. John called the fluking picky with flatties to 2 lbs. being taken from the north and south channel bridges.

Seaman's Bait & Tackle reports that the fishing accountant George Buzzetta bagged a 31 lb. striper last Saturday in Jone's Inlet trolling

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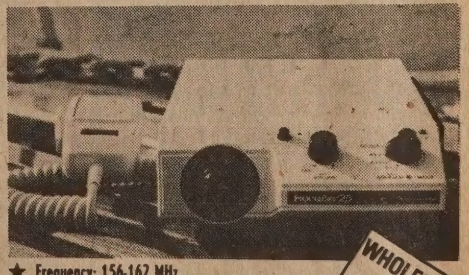

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Amy Freewald took this 10¾ weak on a sand eel aboard the private boat Wanderer. Subscriber Club photo.

purple and white umbrellas. The fish is being mounted. George was fishing with buddies and striped bass sharpies Charlie Keller and Walter Durchhalter. Last Friday George had 9 weakfish from 7 to 10 lbs. in Jone's Inlet. These fish were jigged and umbrellaed. Over this past weekend, George and Charlie hooked and boated a 68 lb. skate which hit a trolled umbrella rig in Jone's. The skate is also being prepared as a ceiling mount. Weaks averaging 10 lbs. are also being coaxed by George and pals in the Inlet in 20' of water on red and white tubed umbrellas, mornings best. For those of you unable to get live or fresh bunker **Seaman's Tackle** has loads of fresh bunker available wholesale and retail.

Canarsie Sports and Tackle reports that off the Canarsie Pier there are presently snappers, some fluke of decent size on spearing, squid and sand eels and there are also some sand porgies being caught on clam and worm.

Walter Blohn on his boat Brat Too bagged a 5½ lb. fluke Saturday. On the rod was Mike Carusso. Jamaica Bay is producing a decent number of keeper fluke presently.

Subscriber Pat Flay called to say that Saturday saw good fishing in Jamaica Bay at buoy 5 for fluke. Fluke with porgies along Beach Channel Drive are a good item. Weakfish have been taken around Kennedy Airport and some bluefish are also darting around in the bay.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Captain Butch on the **Zephyr** reported catches of 5 to 20 fluke per person fishing channels in Sandy Hook Bay. Most fish are in the 1 to 3 lb. range, but pool fish on Sunday tipped the scales at 7½ lbs. These fish are hitting squid and sand eel bait.

Captain Tom of the **Pilot II** had pretty good sea bass and blackfish action this past weekend fishing the Jersey coast. Sea bass up to a 4 lb. 3 oz. pool fish were taken on clams and squid, while blackfish from 1-5 lbs. were hitting fiddler crab bait. The evening trips for weakfish have been doing fair to good, fishing the Tin Can grounds and Swash Channel. On some nights catches aboard the boat ran from 70 to 100 fish in the 6-8 lb. class. These fish are hitting both jigs and jelly worms.

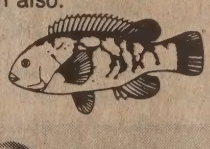
The **Dorothy B** reports fantastic fluke fishing was had on Friday in Sandy Hook Bay and channels. High hook had 23 keepers up to 3 lbs. On Saturday high hook brought in 12 nice flatties up to 5 lbs. on spearing bait.

Charter boat **Sandpiper** says the weakfish and bluefish have been from very good to super at Ambrose Channel this past week between the Wreck and the Channel. Blues have been at their best between the Wreck and the Jetty. The blues are 6 to 8 pounders and the weakfish 6 to 10 pounders. Weaks are being picked all day long and blues best in late afternoon on jigs, umbrellas and coat hangers.

Mark Burger on his boat Striper VI while dragging umbrellas at the Tin Can Grounds boated 2 stripers from 34 to 40 lbs. and 6 weakfish. Red and black umbrellas did the job. Bass went for the red tubes.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santos Sport Shop** said that the area from Great Kills Harbor to Princess Bay has been surrendering fine catches of fluke, loads of 3-5 lb. blues and weakfish in the 8 lb. class. All methods taking these fish and Lenny says if you can't take fish now in this area you must not be fishing. A good showing of snappers and sand porgies for dock and pier fishermen also.



The Rev. Hicks with a fine catch of porgies made in the south Race on worms and clams. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

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PORGIES

GREENPORT

Capt Roddy DeLisle of the charter boat **Prowler II** called to say that Saturday's trip for Dave Punnell and party of Phila., Pa. had a bushel and a half of mixed sized porgies and flounders. They also had 39 weakfish up to 13 lbs. and 3 blues up to 9 lbs. Sunday's charter for Rich Solay of Manhattan and group of 3 buddies from India had 21 weaks and a bluefish diamond jigging east of Gardiner's. The weaks ran from 9 to 13 lbs. Rod says the weakfishing has been absolutely great this past week and weekend and that he would have loaded up Sunday except for the fact the 3 Indians really didn't know a rod from a cod.

Capt. George Porter's **Brand X** prefaced his fishing report by saying "I've got great news." The news was that jumbo porgies have busted loose as have big weakfish on the weekend. Saturday's catch was heavy on jumbo porgies. They also had 82 weakfish up to 10 lbs. and 58 blues to 11 lbs. 8 oz. on Saturday's trip along with all the porgies. Pool winner Saturday was Don Thompson of Mastic with 9 weaks and 6 blues and a mess of porgies. Don's blue ran 11½ lbs. Sunday's trip saw a whole pile of porgies bouncing on the deck along with 92 weakfish and 6 blues. Porgies have been mostly jumbos down to

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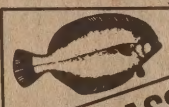

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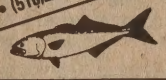

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mediums, depdning on the area fished.

The charter boats **Blue Albatross, Nancy Ann,** and **Prowler II** on the week and weekend trips have had excellent catches of weaks and blues on squid strips and on diamond jigs also. These charter boats are fishing the Gardiner's Island and Fisher's Island areas. Catches have really been heavy.

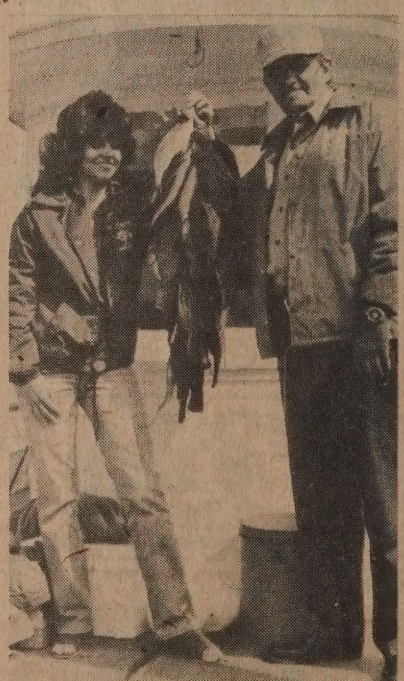
Charter boat **Blue Albatross** called to report that the Farmingdale Fishing Club had their annual family outing and brought back a good solid catch of weakfish and several fluke.

Captain Bob of the **Peconic Star** reported excellent fishing on Thursday northeast of Gardiner's Island. One hundred twenty-six blues and weaks were jigged in addition to a fine porgy catch. Larry Hoeffner single-handedly put away 20 of the weaks and choppers. On Friday, another 100 weakfish came over the rail. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Sztorkz of Medford, totalled 15 weaks and 28 porgies. In addition, Mrs. Sztorkz on her first fishing trip, copped the pool with a fine weakfish. On Saturday, the captain described the porgy action as only fair with 50 weaks and blues being taken during the day.

A.P. White Bait Shop reports that the open and charter boats are doing very well on porgies, fluke and weaks in the area of Gardiner's Island. Fluke are at the Ruins as are porgies and weaks east of Gardiner's near Constellation.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station**



Bob Ketchum and daughter Barbara with a string of blacks and flounders taken aboard the open boat "Peconic Star."

tells of porgies in the bay with bigger fish at South Ferry. Buoys 16 and 17 are also holding fish. Good size weakfish have been taken off the Brickyard on diamond jigs with a red tube attached or a drail with a big red tube. Mixed porgies in the Sound at Petty's Bight and in front of the station. Blackfish on clam at Mulford Point from small to jumbo fish. Believe it or not flounders are still being caught at the traps east of the station at Orient. They are picking a way at fluke at Mulford Point up to 3 lbs. Mulford Point at night is producing weakfish for surfcasters tossing red fins. Private boats going around to the Sound fishing off Duck Pond Point and Horton's Point diamond jigging all the weaks and bluefish you want.

NEW SUFFOLK

Phil at **Capt. Marty's Fishing Station** tells of very good porgy and weakfish catches during this past week and weekend. Porgies averaging 1¼ lbs. have been hitting heavy on worm and clam bait at buoy 25 in the South Race. Catches are big and those chumming are doing best. Bill Faulk and Loyan Mitchell of the Bronx had 79 porgies to 2 lbs. and 5 weaks to 3 lbs. fishing buoy 22 on Friday, working both tides. On Sunday 200 porgies were boated by Joe Hoggart and his wife. They also had 8 weakfish fishing South Race with worm and clam bait. Most weakfish were going 3 to 4 lbs. on squid and sand worms. Rose's Grove was also very good for weakfish. There's been good action and plenty of porgies. Most fish have been mediums with some 3 plus pounders mixed in. South Race has been best in the deep water for larger porgies.

NOYAC

Helen at **Noyac Marina** reports the weakfishing remains fair between the dock and buoy 16 on hi-lo rigs tipped with squid. Weaks of mixed sizes. Porgies of mixed sizes are being caught off Shelter Island near the ferry slips and at buoy 16 and also off Long Beach. Small snappers are starting.

SAG HARBOR

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** reports very good fluke catches, fish averaging 4 lbs. taken at Cedar Point and off the Ruins in the rips on squid and sand eels. Good quantities of fish said Chris with few midgets. Good porgy catches at Cedar Point averaging 1 lb. hitting clam and worm. Good porgies also at the ferry at buoy 15. Mixed weaks and blues on trolled umbrellas at the Ruins. Bostwick Bay at Gardiner's produced mixed weaks and blues also, weaks averaging 5 lbs. or 10 lbs., depending on the two different schools you run into. Blues have been in the 3 lb. range. Snappers are now being caught at

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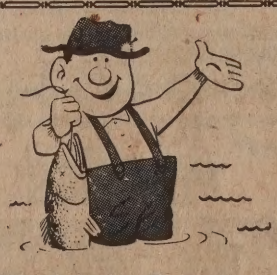
Don Urbanski with bass of 30, 27, 27, 21, 14 and 6 lbs., and three blues from 11½ to 14 lbs. trolled on white bucktails in Smithtown Bay.

Long Wharf.

Capt. Artie Latch of the **Wilhelric** reports that Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday saw the best porgy catches of the year so far aboard his boat. Artie himself shipped over 100 lbs. from Wednesday's trip. The numbers of fish are super with doubles and triples being caught all day. Fish are mixed sizes and are hitting clam bait fishing around Gardiner's. Thursday there were super weak and blue fishing which was unexpected but definitely welcomed. Artie saw the birds, pulled up the anchor, had every one put on diamond jigs and that was the name of the game. The weakfish ran 7 to 9 lbs. and the blues 7 to 9 lbs. also. Porgies slowed down Friday and Saturday, but on Sunday two buddies had 55 porgies between them. Blues and weaks are roaming all around the area and Mattituck is supposed to be holding the mother load. The boat will be fishing fluke and weakfish for a Tuesday special until further notice, sailing at 7 a.m.

Charter boat **Sundance** reports a slaughter of bluefish working off Gardiner's and also at Montauk on trolled umbrellas and on diamond jigs. The blues are anywhere from 1 to 15 lbs. and the skipper is taking a good number of 7 to 9 lb. weakfish with him.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NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

★ BEST BET ★

WEAKS

ROCKY POINT

Stan at **Rocky Point Fishng Stop** reported good porgy action at buoy 9, off of Sound Beach and off of Broadway, on worm bait. Most averaged 3/4 lbs. Plenty of weaks and blues appeared to have settled into the area between buoy 5 and the loading platforms. Also off of Cedar Beach fish are up on top in the mornings and are being taken by casters, jiggers and trollers. Fish run anywhere from 3-10 lbs. with most weaks and blues averaging 5-6 lbs.

SELDEN

Steve and Dave Bunai had 20 lb. bass amongst 13 schoolies with these smaller fish going up to 7 lbs. They've been working night tides. These fish were weighed in at **Angler's Den** in Selden. Check with Ken at the shop to find out where these fish were caught.

Kenny at **Angler's Den** tells us that tons of weakfish are being caught in the Sound and the Sound is red hot for weakfish with sand worms or red or white jelly worms. Miller Place sharpie Ed Charmac bagged a 15¾ lb. weakfish. The weaks are averaging 8 to 15 fish a boat per night. Blues are all over the place with 110' of water best for bigger fish. Blues have been found best between Crane's Neck and Wildwood and are hitting umbrellas and diamond jigs. They are being jigged daytime and also in the evenings with excellent results. Some fluke between Flax Pond and Shoreham up to 6 lbs. but averaging 2½ to 3 lbs. on sand eels and squid. A few bass in the 20s on the beaches every night on 4½'' split-tail Rebels. Porgies are scattered at buoy 11 buoy 9, Crane's Neck and Old Field from midgets to 3 pounders. The porgies are also being taken at night by weakfishermen.

MT. SINAI HBR.

Ralph's Fishing Station tells of plenty of porgies of mixed sizes caught around the rocks at Rocky Point at both tides on worm and clam. Fluke catches have been fair with a lot of small fish mixed in. There's been good action just in front of the station on the flats on sand eels and squid. There have been weakfish every night drifting sand worms just inside buoy 11. These fish are running from 8 to 13 lbs. and taking from 10 to 14 a

night is no big trick. Blues are being trolled and are taking drifted worms in the same area. These 5 to 6 lb. choppers are running all over the sound chasing bunker.

Bob at **Fisherman's Haven** tells of plenty of weakfish from 3 to 10 lbs. Saturday night Bob and a pal boated 9 weaks and released 6 smaller specimens. This was on worms and squid fishing off Mt. Misery Point. They've been striping line out and taking fish that were hanging 5 feet off the bottom. A lot of fluke have been taken the same way between buoy 11 and the Belle Terre Beach. Saturday night blues up to 9 lbs. were taken at the Shoreham Power Plant for surfcasters on blackback 5'' Rebels. Lots of big porgies at buoy 11 and Bob says you can really load up.

PORT JEFFERSON

Tim at **Caraftis Fishing Station** tells of porgies at Crane Neck and Old Field Point, fish of mixed sizes. Some fluke at Mt. Misery Point with enough keepers to make it interesting on squid, spearing and sand eels. Weaks at Mt. Misery Point in the morning and evening hours either trolled on umbrellas or on floated worms. These fish are 3 to 12 lbs. Bluefish are being jigged and trolled in deeper water at Middle Grounds and one mile past buoy 11. These blues are averaging 5 lbs., though an 18 pounder was caught and weighed in on Sunday. Snappers have started up.

HUNTINGTON

The **Ever Ready** reports that Harry Brsulce of Huntington landed a 16½ lb. blue. Ed Kirby of Lake Ronkonkoma took a 15¾ lb. weakfish and 17 other weaks. Also on the 4';30 a.m. Sunday trip Robert Curtis had a 12 pounder. Carl Cohen had a 9 lb. weak. Bernard Rochester had a 7 lb. weakfish. Blues in the 6 lb. range were caught. Bottom fishing trips have been scoring with flounder and porgies.

Captain Jim of the open boat **High Hook** reported morning runs during the week producing both weaks and blues. Afternoon fishing is concentrated on the porgies. Sunday's charter

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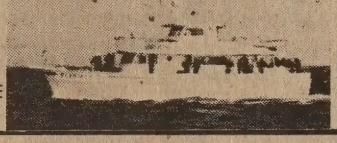

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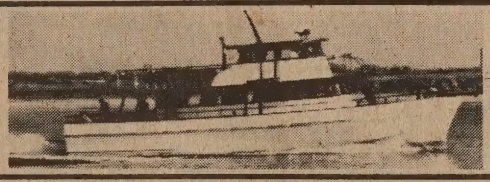

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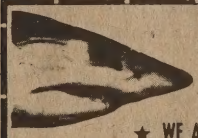

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for the PAF Playhouse group had a mixed bag of weaks and porgies.

George Valentine of **Four Winds Bait and Tackle** weighed in a huge doormat fluke of 13 lbs. which fell to a Tri-Fin spoon jig at Eaton's Neck over the weekend. On Saturday morning, boatmen had good action with both weaks and blues in the 3-6 lb. class near buoy 15, Lloyd's Point.

Ronnie Ferraro of **Ronnie's Tackle Shop** reported a 23 lb. striper for Jim Piacenti. The bass took a live bunker at Marshall Field. Bill Hughes and Ed Cotiaux trolled sand worms to put away ten weaks in the 4-5 lb. class at Whitewood Point Saturday night. Ronnie said that blues, weaks and an occasional bass are being taken at Lloyd's Neck and Eaton's Point on umbrella rigs and drifted jelly worms. Fish range anywhere from 4-10 lbs. and at times are found chasing bait on the surface when casters have been able to do a good job on them. Plenty of sand porgies at Sand City with bigger fish out in the Sound on worms and snappers plentiful but small inside the harbor.

NORTHPORT

From **Bowman's Sporting Goods** Tom reported that weakfish up to 10 lbs. were taken at Eaton's Neck last week. Weaks were on top with blues mixed in Friday evening. Plenty of blues to 2 lbs. still at the power plant that are being taken by casters on

Ronnie, Jr. and Chris Ferrara with four stripers from 21 to 29 lbs. worm trolled at Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy Ronnie's Bait and Tackle.

plugs and tins. Snapper fishing good although most are still on the small side and plenty of sand porgies in the harbor.

KINGS PARK

O.K. Bait & Tackle reports good catches of flounder and porgies of mixed sizes on worms at Callahan's Beach and off the Mansion.

GLEN COVE

Capt. Joe of the **Lady Lil II** reports that porgy fishing has been very slow. He is now switching to bluefish of which there have been quite a few taken between Lloyd's Neck and Oak Neck.

Dave at the **Glen Cove Sport Shop** reported good snapper fishing throughout the area particularly in the early morning hours. George Schim has taken over the lead in the shop fishing contest, bluefish division, with a 14 lb. 10 oz. chopper. This was the 45th blue over 10 lbs. taken by George this season. He fishes live bunker along the beaches from Port Washington to Matinecock Point. Teenagers Art Hall and John Cook took 10; small stripers at Prospect Point on small white jigs one evening last week. Of the 10, only one was kept. Two of the nine returned to the water were tagged by the pair of young sportsmen.

NORTH SHORE WEST END

★ BEST BET ★

BLUES

CITY ISLAND

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** reported good action with flounder and porgy on worms from Sands Point to Prospect Point. School bass being worm trolled up behind Hart's Island. Casters take these fish also on small Rebels and Tri-Fin Lures.

Travis Johnson, 4-yrs.-old, hefts a brace of husky blackfish taken aboard the City Island open boat "Apache."

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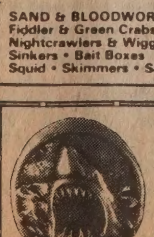

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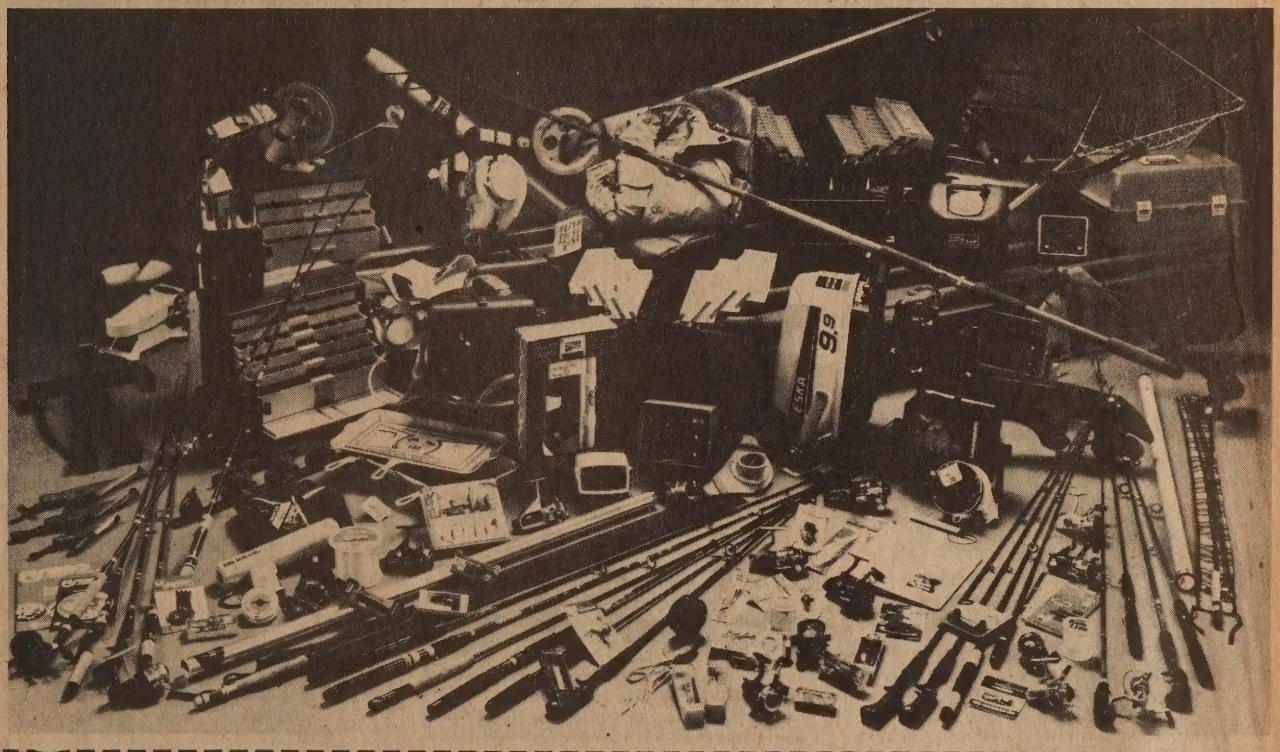

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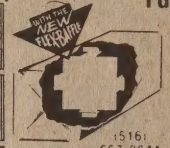

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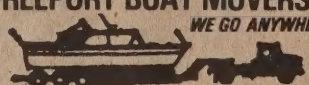

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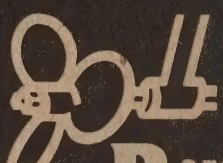

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SURF REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

For all who have ever dreamt of breaking the all-tackle record for striped bass, rest assured that the time has never been closer at hand for the record to fall.

As testimony to the tremendous size of some of the cows roaming the coast this season, is the 71 lb. boat caught fish which succumbed to a cut bunker bait off of the Connecticut shore last week. If nothing else, bass such as this one serve to rekindle the hope that someday, somewhere one of us from among the surf clan will wrestle ashore the bass that will sit where Charlie Church's great fish reigned for so many years.

South Shore

Lenny from **Santos Sport Shop,** Staten Island said that bass fishing in the area has been almost non-existent. Most casters have been contenting themselves with 3-5 lb. bluefish which have been roaming the shore anywhere from the VZ bridge to Princess Bay. Bunker chunks and tin have both been effective on the small choppers.

In the Jamaica Bay area, John told me from his **Cross Bay Tackle Shop** that a few blues continued to be taken from the North Channel bridge on bunker chunks. Most run from 4-8 lbs. and are being taken primarily in the early morning hours.

Working our way east, Skippy reported from his Atlantic Beach Tackle Shop that while he hasn't heard much on the surf front, he did weigh in a 27 lb. striper taken by Pat the Carpenter on a jellyworm and leadhead. Pat took the fish early Saturday morning in the vicinity of West End, Jones Beach.

Billy Beckman told me from **Beckman's Tackle Shop** in Island Park that weakfish entertained casters late Sunday morning along the rocks at West End. Billy figured that of the anglers who stuck it out until 9AM to 10AM, most had 4 or 5 weaks apiece. Some went to 8 lbs. and a couple of 10 lb. stripers were mixed in with the yellowfins which were being taken on tin.

Some more West End action was reported by Lon Wanser from his Seaford Tackle Shop. Lon told me that casters had been scoring with 4-5 lb. class bluefish during the evening hours on tin. Lon also reported surfmen continue to take weakfish on sand worms at Democrat, although a couple of regulars reported action had slacked off somewhat in recent days.

Hays from **The Store** at Oak Beach said that Steve Leder, Bobby Sandora and Poppy have been scoring regularly with white Tri-Fin Whiptails from the Sore Thumb every morning. Most of the fish are weaks up to eight pounds with an occasional small bluefish mixed in. Hays confirmed the ongoing action with weaks on sand worms at Democrat.

Bluefish roamed up and down the backside of Robert Moses on a couple of evenings early last week. On Tuesday night, 7-9 lb. choppers replaced the usual 3-5 lbers. which have been residing in the inlet most of the season. One pair of anglers reportedly put away 30 of the big choppers before thunderstorms and high winds scattered the fish.

Hank at **Altenkirch Tackle Shop** in Shinnecock reported he's been weighing in a few weaks in the 8 lb. class for casters working the ocean beaches. Some small blues are scattered along the beach and are being taken on tins and jigs.

Out at Montauk, Johnny Kronuch reported from his Montauk shop that weakfishing continued good up front and on the north side through Wednesday night. It has slowed since then but some fish are still being taken. Jack Yee fished Evans Rock two nights this weekend and put away several weaks along with school bass of 7 and 9 lbs. Most of the weakfish action has been on RedFins. No further bluefish activity on the south side after last week's flurry of activity.

North Shore

Greg at **City Island Bait and Tackle** said that school stripers continue to be taken in Turtle Cove. Fish are now

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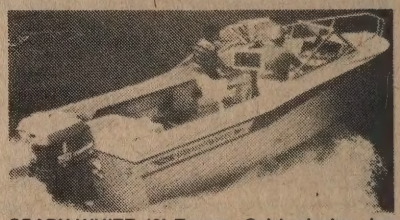

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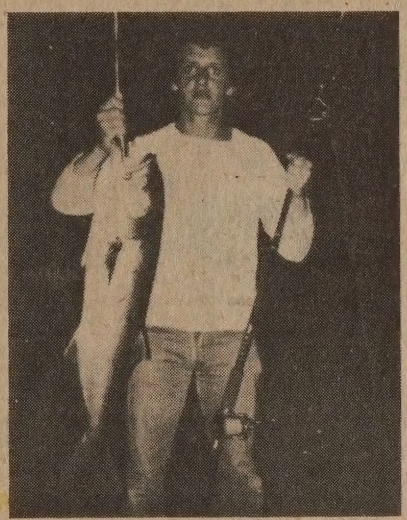

Jeff Brandeis hefts an 11½ lb. bluefish taken from the Canarsie Pier on a sand eel jig. Photo courtesy of Canarsie Sport and Tackle Shop.

hitting small poppers in addition to Rebels, Tri-Fin lures and small bucktails. Most of the stripers are averaging 3-4 lbs. but fish range anywhere from shorts up to 10 lbs. The best action has been 2 hours on either side of high water. A few scattered blues in the area also.

Dave at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that weaks and blues in the 3-4 lb. class are being picked up on small tins and Rebels along the shore near the Landing. Plenty of snappers and some snapper blues to a pound along the beach for flyrod enthusiasts.

Ronnie Ferraro told me from his Huntington Tackle Shop that some blues and weaks were taken at Caumsett at dusk and dawn this past week. Tri-Fin Eel Worms, spoon jigs and Rebels were accounting for the fish. Cold Spring Harbor causeway has produced some small blues in recent days. There has been no pattern to this action, however.

Hard fishing Steve Bunai and his younger brother Dave spent several nights fishing private property at Crane's Neck this past week. Using 4½" and 5½" mackerel finished Rebels, the pair put away 13 school bass to 7 lbs., a pair of 20 lb. class stripers, one weakfish and also dropped 4 big bass that they couldn't hold on the light tackle. Access to Crane's Neck is virtually impossible due to its private nature.

Small blues along the beach with an occasional bigger chopper mixed in, according to Stan of the **Rocky Point Fishing Stop**. He did weigh in a 12 lber. taken one day last week on a tin. During the evening hours, weakfish from 3-8 lbs. have been scattered along the beach from Hagerman's Landing to Wading River. Decent action after dark with these also said Stan, although most casters leave the beach at sunset. Small poppers, sand eel jigs, and especially the Tri-Fin spoon jig have all been effective.

Art White told me from his Greenport shop that the surf this past week on the North Fork has been very quiet.

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